

Nisaka saw...
he saw the kiss...
the forbidden kiss...
between Neji and
Takasaki-san.

Love and Lies

BY MUSAWO TSUMUGI





SO DID
TAKEDA
SHOW YOU
HIS PART-
NER, TOO,
NISAKA?

NI-
SAKA?

...

HM?
WHAT
?

HUH? IS
HE MAD?

NO, I
JUST HAVE
AN ERRAND
TO RUN
NEAR THE
STA-
TION.

OH, I
SEE.

ANYWAY,
DO YOU
LIVE
NEARBY,
NEJI?

...

O-OH
YEAH!
WHEN'S
YOUR
BIRTHDAY,
AGAIN,
NISAKA?





BUT MAN,
BEFORE WE
STARTED
HIGH SCHOOL,
I NEVER
WOULD HAVE
THOUGHT
WE'D BE
WALKING
HOME
TOGETHER
LIKE THIS!

...

NEJI...
LM...



HUH?
THAT'S
MEAN!

I'M
TALKING
ABOUT
AT
FIRST.

OH,
THAT'S
GOOD.

WELL...
YOU
WERE
PRETTY
ANNOY-
ING.

WE HAD
THE SAME
CRAM
SCHOOL,
BUT OUR
REGULAR
SCHOOLS
WERE
DIFFER-
ENT...

I
KINDA
FELT
LIKE I
WAS A
HANG-
ER-ON
WITH
YOU...

HUH?



I WAS
REALLY
HAPPY.

MAYBE YOU
WEREN'T
INTEREST-
ED AT ALL
IN A PLAIN
GUY LIKE
ME, BUT...

AFTER THE
ENTRANCE
CEREMONY,
WHEN I
FOUND OUT
WE WERE IN
THE SAME
CLASS...







NISA-
KA'S MY
FRIEND!



DON'T
SAY
THAT!



WHAT A
SNAP
JUDG-
MENT...

ANYONE
WHO ASKS
THAT WHEN
FIRST
MEETING
SOMEONE
IS A
PER-
VERT!



HE'S
IMPORT-
ANT
TO
ME!



...

HE NOW KNOWS HIS FRIEND'S SECRET...
BUT THIS DISTRESS IS TOO GREAT FOR HIM TO HOLD IN...
NEXT TIME: LILINA'S CHANGE

Neji and Lilina.

They've received
notice from the
government...
that they are to
get married!

Love and Lies

BY MUSAWO TSUMUGI



YUKARI
ISN'T QUITE
AS GOOD-
LOOKING,
BUT YOU
TWO SUIT
EACH
OTHER!

THE
GOVERN-
MENT SURE
DOES MAKE
AMAZING
MATCHES!

~~はぁ~~
B A A A A A M ~~ん~~



NO
NEED
TO BE
SNAPPY
...
IT'S
JUST
KISS-
ING!

N-
NO WAY!
HOW
CAN
YOU
ASK
THAT?!

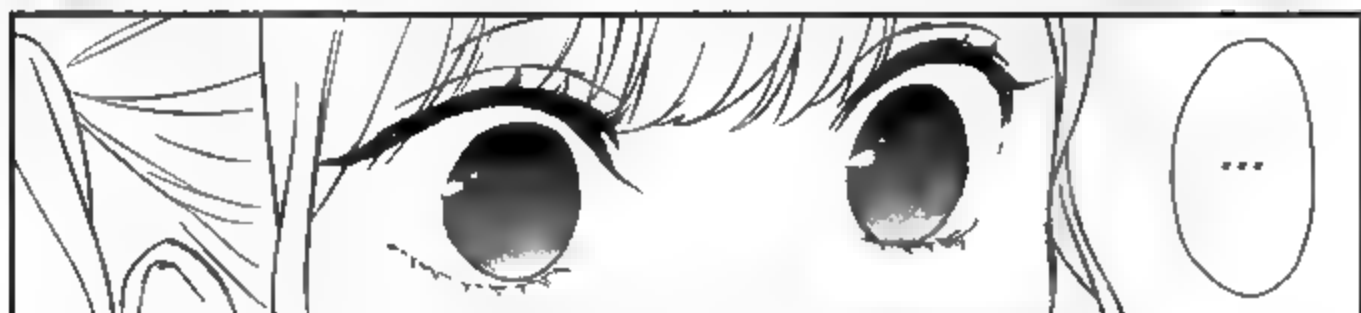
HAVE
YOU
KISSED
YET?



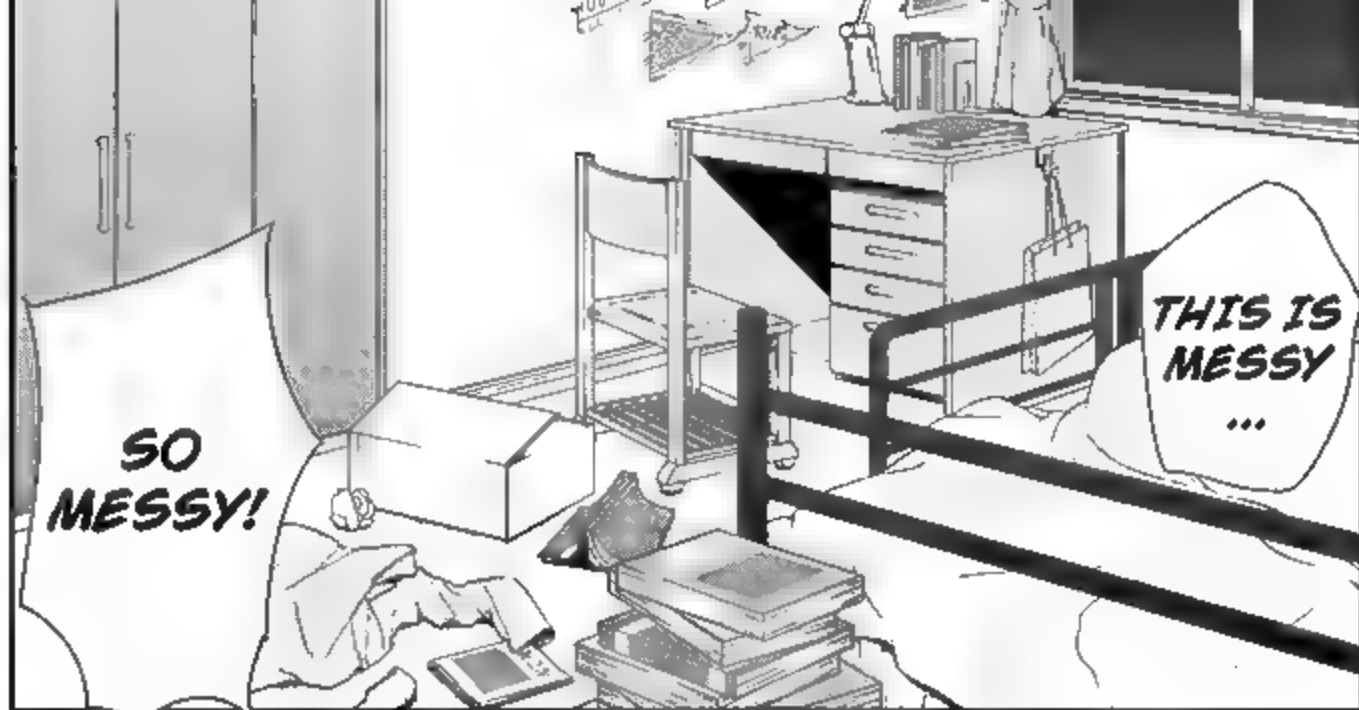
*KISU, A KIND OF FISH, SILLAGO IN ENGLISH













Neji and Lilina.

The two of them
must get married.
But there's someone
important standing
between them:
Misaki Takasaki.

Love and Lies

BY MUSAWO TSUMUGI







I'M ON THE NEXT PAGE. I WAS IN A DIFFERENT CLASS IN SIXTH GRADE.

HUH? WHERE ARE YOU ON THIS PAGE?

OH.



THIS IS THE ONLY PHOTO I HAVE OF US TOGETHER...

TAKEDA'S IN IT TOO, THOUGH.

BUT THAT'S NOT QUITE TRUE...

THE TRUTH IS...

I BOUGHT THIS ONE BECAUSE YOU CAN SEE TAKASAKI-SAN A LITTLE IN THE BACKGROUND...



DID YOU WANT TO PASS HER THE ERASER BECAUSE YOU LIKED HER?

OR DID YOU LIKE HER THE MOMENT YOU HANDED IT TO HER?



HUH?!

I-I DUNNO ...



HUH? LIKE I SAID... THE ERASER ...

HEY... WHEN DID YOU FIRST REALIZE THAT YOU LIKED MISAKI?

NOT THAT!

I THINK... IT
WASN'T THAT DAY.

I THINK IT
WAS THE DAY
AFTER THAT.

I FELT
LIKE I
WAS
FLOAT-
ING ON
AIR,
THAT
DAY!

TAKASAKI-SAN
SMILED AT ME...

AND I WAS
HAPPY, WHAT-
EVER I DID...

THE NEXT DAY, WHEN I
WENT TO CLASS...

THINGS SHOULD
HAVE BEEN THE SAME
AS USUAL, BUT...

I'M
SURE
THAT
WAS THE
MO-
MENT
...

TAKASAKI-
SAN
BECAME
SPECIAL
TO ME.

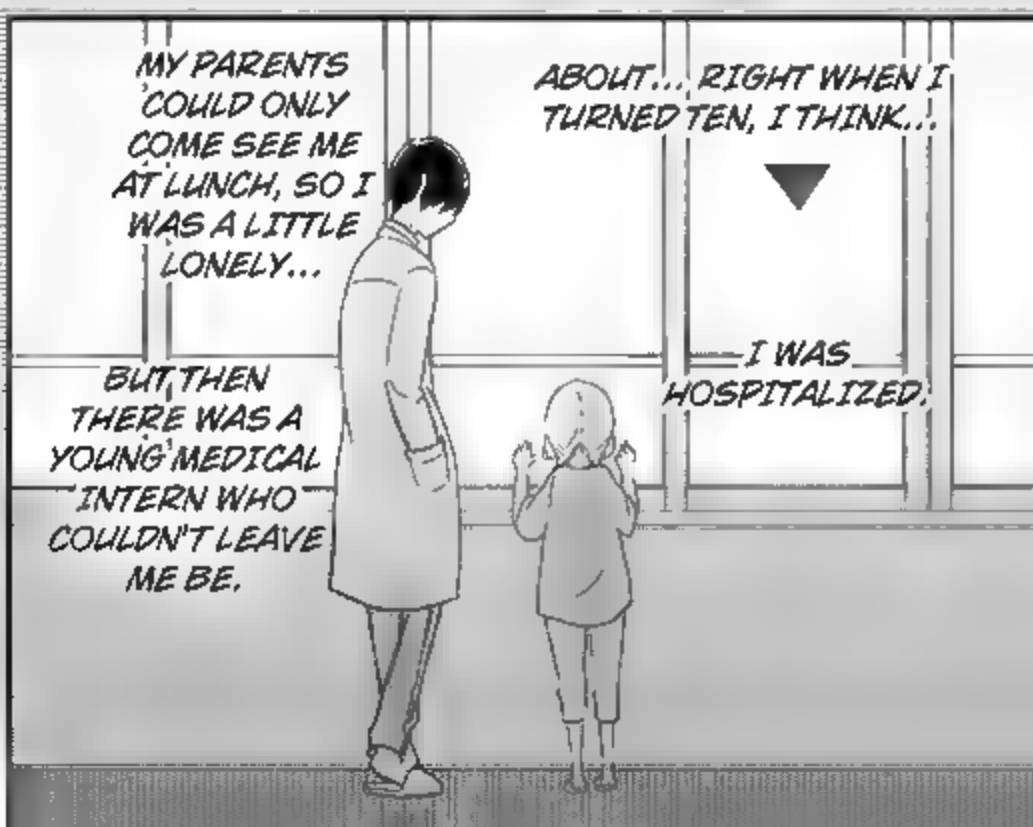
AND
EVERYTHING
LOOKED
DIFFERENT
TO ME...

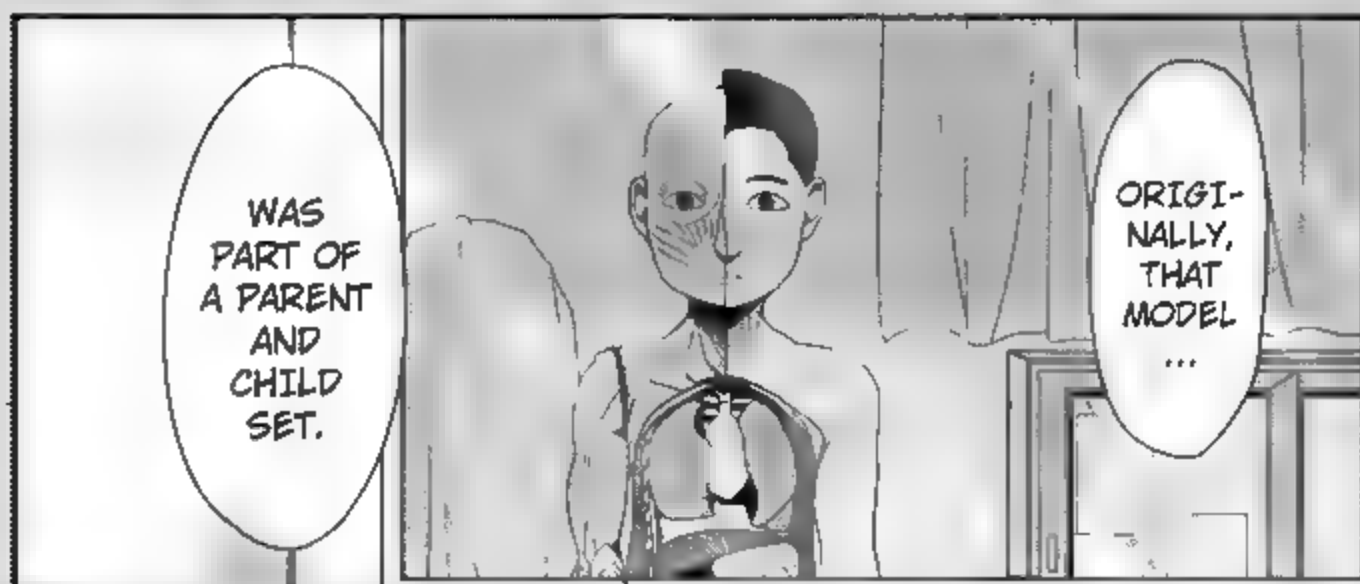
THAN
IT HAD
THE DAY
BEFORE.

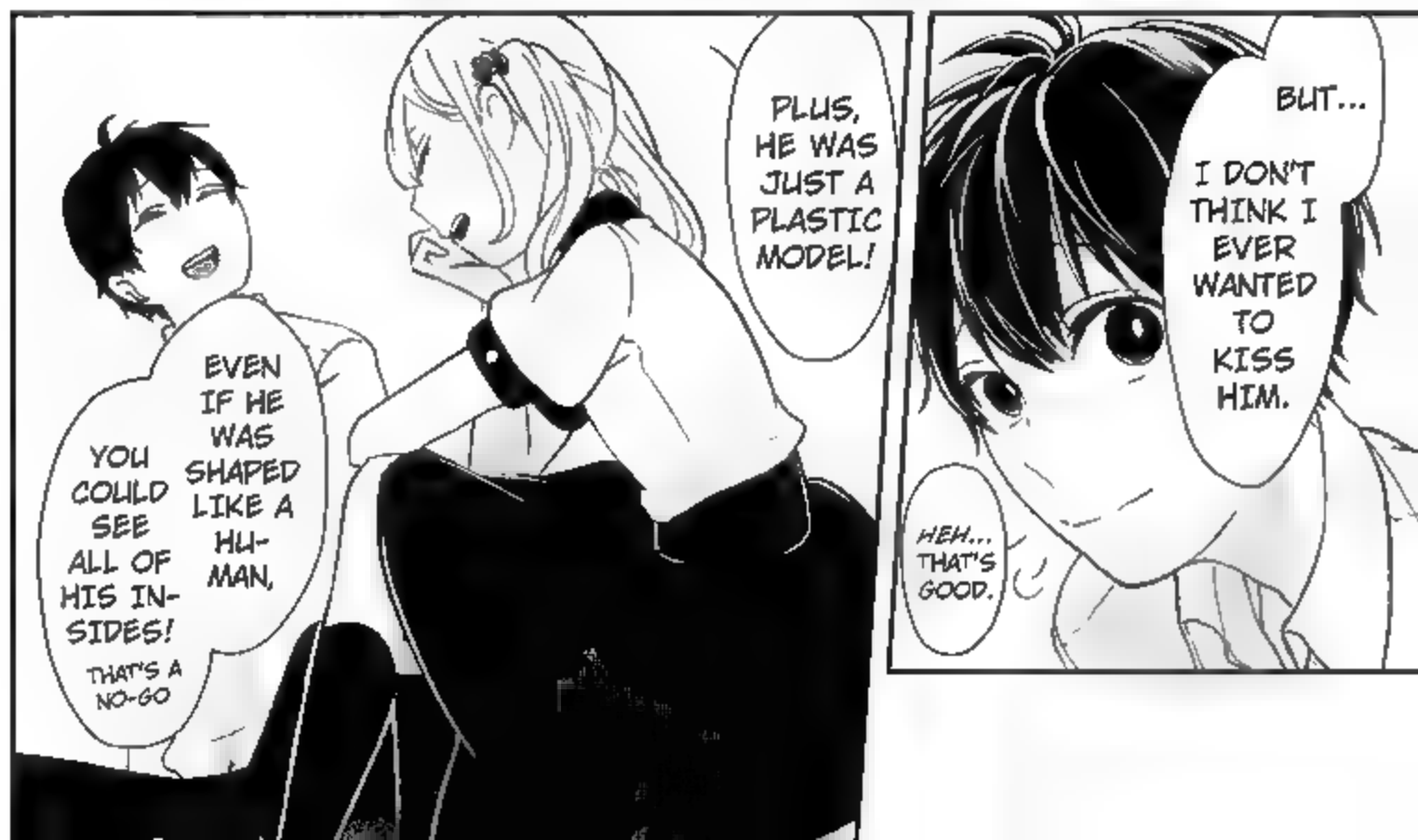
IT WAS LIKE
ONLY TAKASAKI-SAN
WAS SHINING.

JUST LOOKING
AT HER GOT
ME EXCITED...











Neji and Lilina...
The government
has arranged for
them to marry.

But for some reason,
Lilina encourages
Neji's forbidden love
for Takasaki-san!

Love and Lies

BY MUSAWO TSUMUGI



HAVE
YOU
KISSED?

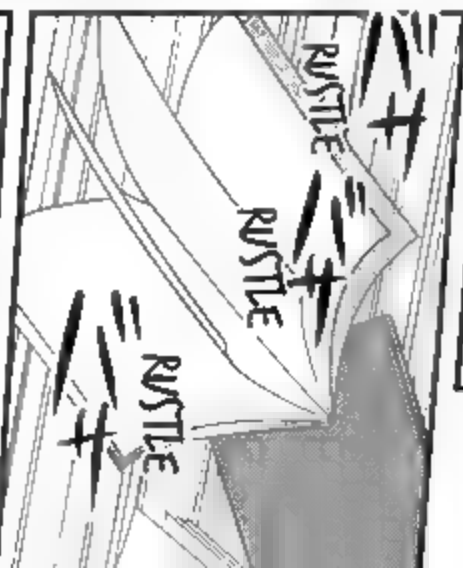
SO
HAVE
YOU
DONE
IT?

















In a world where the
Ministry of Health,
Labor and Welfare
decides who you marry...

Neji and Lilina were
designated for marriage.
And now government
agents have come for
their first inquiry
regarding their
relationship!

Love and Lies

BY MUSAWO TSUMUGI



 MangaBox

LET'S GET
STARTED
ON YOUR
POST-
GOVERN-
MENT
NOTICE
INQUIRY.

WE CON-
TACTED
BOTH
YOUR
PARENTS
BEFORE-
HAND,
SO I'M
SURE
YOU'VE
ALREADY
HEARD,
SO...



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ARE
KNOWN
AS THE
"RED
THREAD"
OF SCI-
ENCE,"
AFTER
ALL.

YUKARI
MAR-
RIAGES
VIA
THE...
GOVERN-
MENT
NOTICE
SYSTEM
...

DON'T
BE SO
BLUNT!

IT'S
QUITE
NOR-
MAL!

*BEING "CONNECTED BY THE RED THREAD OF FATE"
IS A METAPHOR FOR "FATEFUL ROMANCE" IN JAPAN.

BEFORE
WE GET
INTO THE
INQUIRY,
LET'S TALK
A LITTLE
BIT...

ABOUT
THAT!

IS
THIS
THE
LAST
ONE
FOR
TODAY?

OH, NO.
THE NEXT
ONE IS
THE LAST.

THEN
MAYBE WE
CAN CHAT
WITH THEM
TO HELP
THINGS
WORK
OUT.

ITS
STRENGTH
LIES IN AN
INCRE-
DIBLE
AMOUNT
OF DATA.

THE RED
THREAD
OF SCI-
ENCE...





FROM THAT GROUPING, WE TAKE ACCOUNT FOR MANY FACTORS, INCLUDING FAMILY ENVIRONMENT, STANDARD OF LIVING, IDEOLOGY ETC

AND NARROW IT DOWN TO SET COUPLES.



AND CLASSIFY YOU AC-CORDING TO A CHART WITH OVER 90% ACCURACY

THEY DO CALL HUMANS "SOCIAL ANIMALS," AFTER ALL.

IT'S QUITE A BIT EASIER TO GET CLOSE TO THEM.

THE SAME IS TRUE FOR DOGS AND CATS AS WELL, BUT WHEN YOU GAIN FRIENDS BEFORE ADULT-HOOD...

THE KEY IS TO FIND SOMEONE BEFORE YOU TURN SIXTEEN, WHEN YOUR PER-SONALITY FORMATION COMPLETES.



THOSE
OLD-
FASH-
IONED
ARRANGE-
MENTS
...
MADE
ON
AMATEUR
SUPPOSI-
TIONS
ONLY EVER
SORT OF
WORKED
OUT.

THEY SAID
THAT THESE
SCIEN-
TIFICALLY
BACKED,

GOVERN-
MENT-
ARRANGED
MARRIAGES
WOULD
HAVE AN
EXTREMELY
LOW CHANCE
OF FAILURE
...



LONG
AGO...

THERE
EXISTED
THE REM-
NANTS OF
A CULTURE
BASED ON
ARRANGED
MARRIAGES
AND
INTERME-
DIARIES
...

BUT
COMPARED
WITH THE
CURRENT
YUKARI
SYSTEM,
THOSE
WERE
CHILD'S
PLAY.



WELL,
IT'S MUCH
EASIER
TO HAVE
SOMEONE
ELSE
DECIDE
FOR YOU.

AND
THAT'S
BEEN
PROVEN
CORRECT
NOW.



OH!
AND BY
THE
WAY!

SO
THERE'S
SOME-
THING
SOLID
BEHIND
YOUR
CHOICES.

GENES,
PERSONAL-
ITY TESTS,
APPEAR-
ANCE...





Neji and Lilina:
The government that
guarantees they'll
fall in love.

But they're young,
and the government
seems rather strict to
them. And now a
government agent is
asking them what they
think about their
arranged marriage.

Love and Lies

BY MUSAWO TSUMUGI





THE YAY OR NAY FROM USER REVIEWS IS IMPORTANT, AND LETS NEW ADOPTERS KNOW IF THERE IS A HIGH THRESHOLD TO...

AND CAN'T WE HAVE SOME COMMENTS FROM EXPERIENCED USERS IN THE MANUAL?

I'LL LET THE HIGHER-UPS KNOW ABOUT THAT! THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

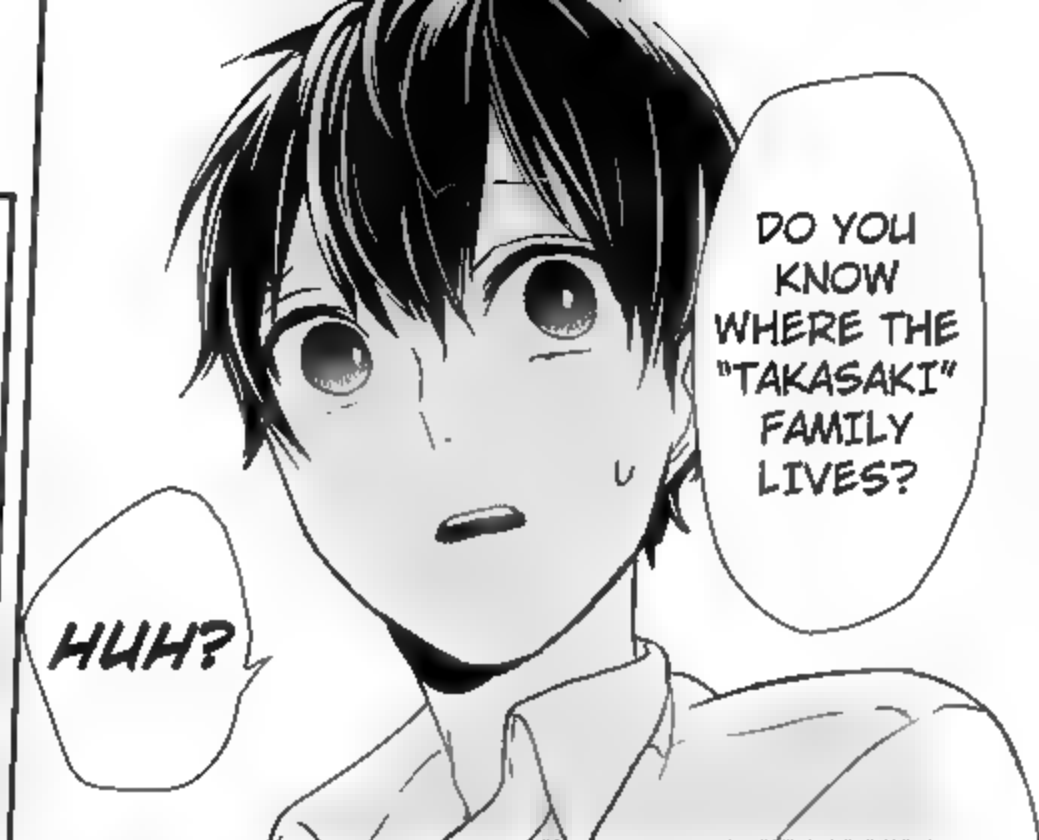
BUT THERE'S TOO MUCH INFORMATION THAT ISN'T SHARED WITH THE PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE NAME OF FINDING A PARTNER QUICKLY.

COULDN'T WE HAVE SOME MORE INFORMATION DISCLOSURE?

I UNDERSTAND THE LOGIC.









IT'S
...

NEAR
THE
PARK...

...

...

TH-
THEN
...

IT'S
BEHIND
ELEMEN-
TARY
SCHOOL
NO. 2...



I CAN'T
TELL YOU
THAT
INFORMA-
TION.

UM!

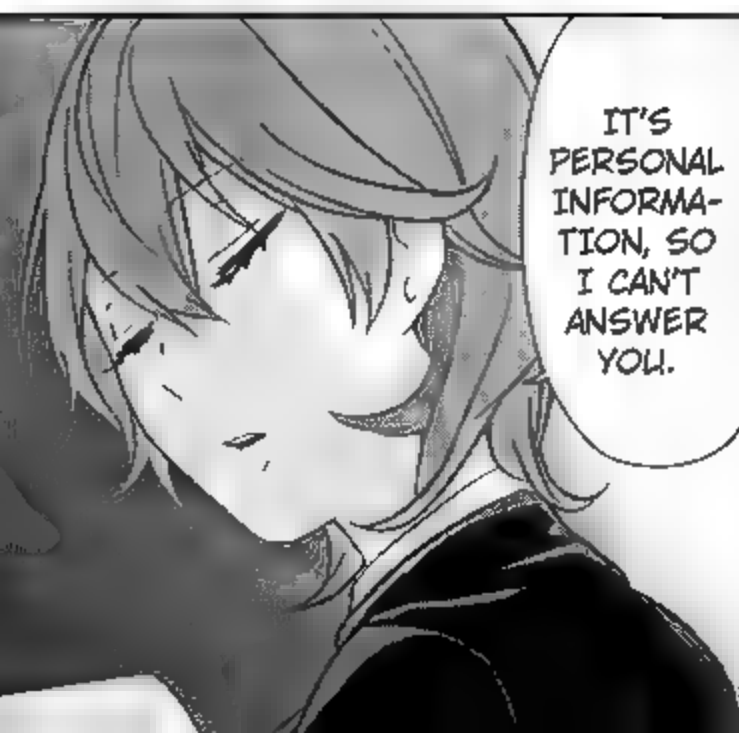
DOES
THAT
MEAN
THAT
MISAKI
GOT HER
NOTICE?



OH! I
SEE,
THAT'S
IT.

LOOK,
MOTOI'S
MAP IS
WRONG.

SORRY,
SORRY!



IT'S
PERSONAL
INFORMA-
TION, SO
I CAN'T
ANSWER
YOU.



SH-
SHE'S A
FRIEND!

TELL US
WHAT HE'S
LIKE, AT
LEAST...



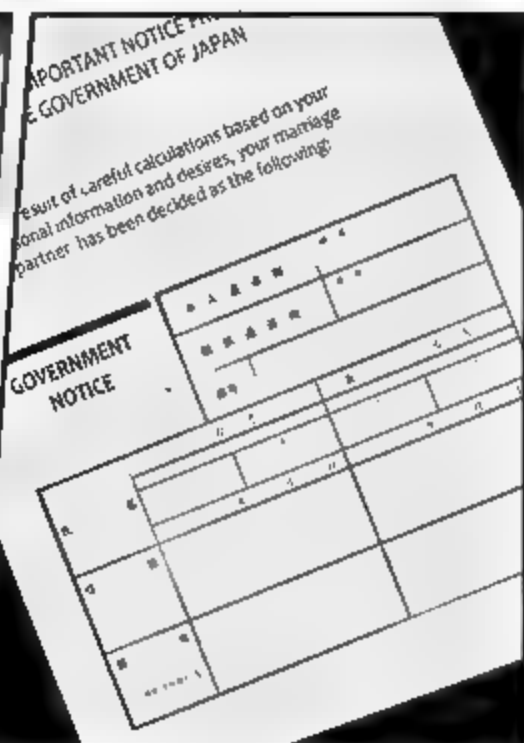
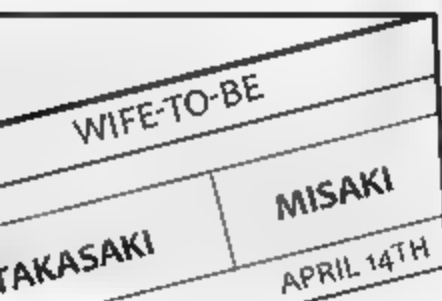
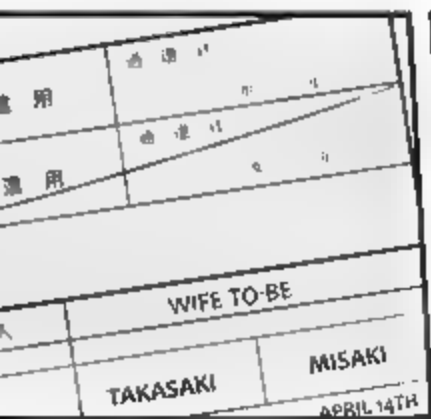
Neji and Lilina are
bound by the red thread
of romance.

But then there's Neji's first
love, Misaki Takasaki...
and agents of the Ministry
of Health, Labor, and
Welfare are headed to
her place right now!

Love and Lies

BY MUSAWO TSUMUGI









THEY'RE
NOT,
RIGHT
?!



ARE
YOUR
FEEL-
INGS...

FOR
MISAKI
THAT
WEAK
?!



LI-
LINA.



IF...

IF
IT IS,
I'M...

DISAP-
POINTED.



I
WOULDN'T
HELP
YOU IF I
DIDN'T!

I
THOUGHT
THEY
WERE
MORE
THAN
THAT, AT
LEAST!

IS A
GOVERN-
MENT
NOTICE
ALL IT
TAKES
FOR YOU
TO GIVE
UP?!







IS WAY
WEIRD-
ER.

I THINK
A WORLD
WHERE YOU
CAN'T KISS
THE ONE
YOU
LOVE...

MORN-
ING!

MORN-
ING!

SHE'S
HERE!

IT'S
TAKASAKI-
SAN!

YOU
WERE
ALMOST
LATE!
THAT'S
RARE
FOR YOU,
MISAKI!

THE FATEFUL DAY! NEJI AND
TAKASAKI-SAN AND LILINA...

THE TANGLED THREAD OF LOVE
THAT BINDS THEM IS PURE RED!

EHE!

I WAS
JUST
CARE-
LESS!

NEXT TIME: "BIG KOFUN EXHIBIT"

Has Takasaki-san
received her government
notice? Or are they
mistaken?

Can Neji open that
Pandora's Box?

Love and Lies

BY MUSAWO TSUMUGI

TRANSLATION BY JENNIFER J. WARD
ADAPTATION BY ALEXANDRA E. SWANSON
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THEY'RE
NOT,
RIGHT
?!



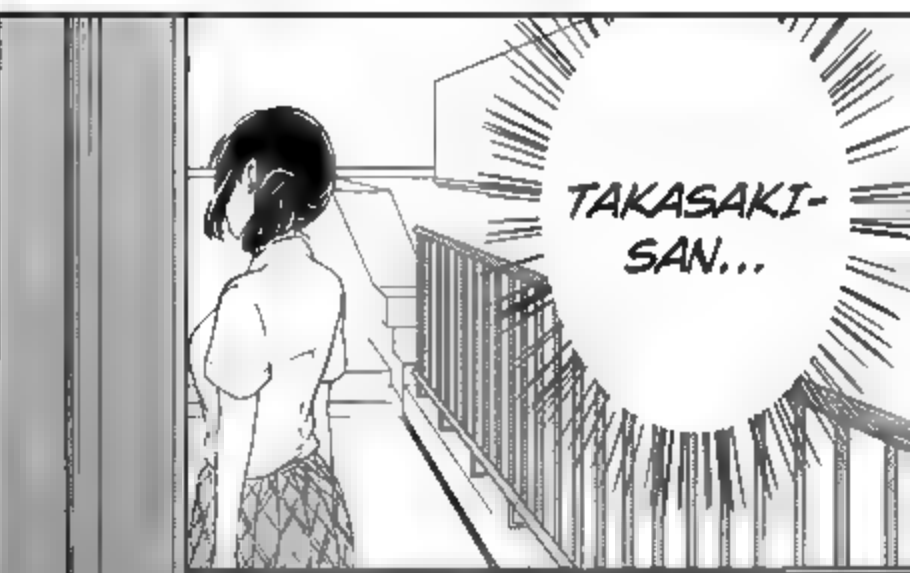
ARE
YOUR
FEEL-
INGS...

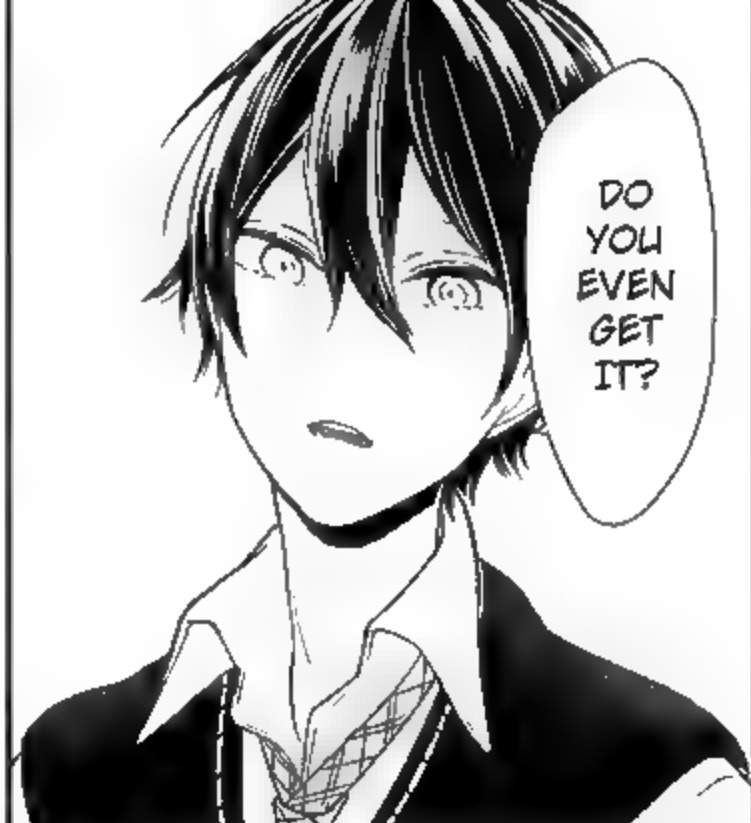
FOR
MISAKI
THAT
WEAK
?!

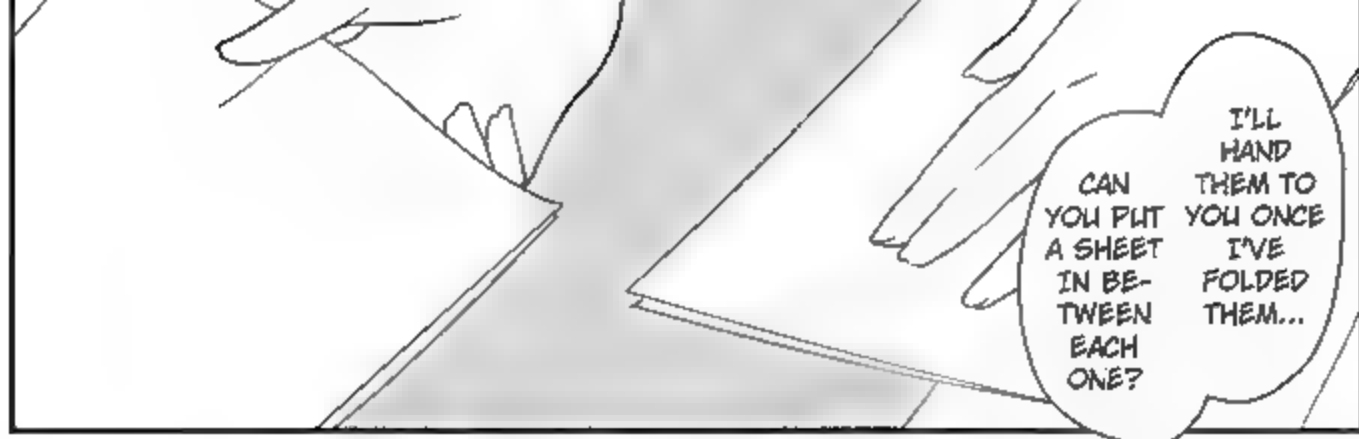
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**THEY CAME!
THE ANGELS CAME!
BUT DID THEY BRING TIDINGS OF LIFE
OR OF DEATH?**

NEXT TIME: TRYST IN THE CURTAINS

The reapers from the
Ministry of Health,
Labor and Welfare have
gone to see Takasaki-
san, the girl Neji's in
love with! They really
did go to see her!

Love and Lies

BY MUSAWO TSUMUGI

TRANSLATION BY JENNIFER J. WARD
ADAPTATION BY ALEXANDRA E. SWANSON
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OH...
IS THAT
IT...

OH, THEY
JUST
HAD
BUSI-
NESS
AT MY
HOUSE.
IT
HAD
NOTH-
ING
TO DO
WITH
ME.

OH! THAT'S
SO FUNNY!

♪♪♪
GIGGLE



NO
WAY!

I HAV-
EN'T
GOTTEN
IT!

HUH?
BUT YES-
TERDAY
SOMEONE
FROM
THE MINIS-
TRY...



BUT THEN
WHAT KIND
OF BUSINESS
DID THEY
HAVE THERE?

PHEW...
JEEZ, THEN I
WAS JUMPING
TO CONCLU-
SIONS...



HUH?

...CAN I
ASK WHAT
YOUR
ANSWER
WAS?



OH, LIKE
...
THEY
CAME TO
ASK HOW
THINGS
WERE GOING
SINCE WE
GOT OUR
NOTICES.

ANYWAY,
WHY
DID THE
MINISTRY
AGENTS
COME TO
YOUR PLACE,
NEJIMA-
KUN?



HUH?
WHY?!

I THINK
YOU AND
LILINA-
CHAN...

ARE A
GOOD
MATCH,
THOUGH.



HMM!

AND I
DON'T.

I
DIDN'T
REALLY
HAVE
ONE.
I
ONLY
SAID
I STILL
DON'T
REALLY
GET THE
WHOLE
THING.



YOU'RE
NOT VERY
CONFI-
DENT
ABOUT
YOUR-
SELVES,
BUT...

YOU CAN
BOTH BE
REALLY
DEDICATED
FOR
SOMEONE
ELSE'S
SAKE.

I CAN'T
REALLY
SAY WHY,
BUT...

THERE
ARE TIMES
WHEN I
FEEL LIKE
YOU'RE
KIND OF
ALIKE.

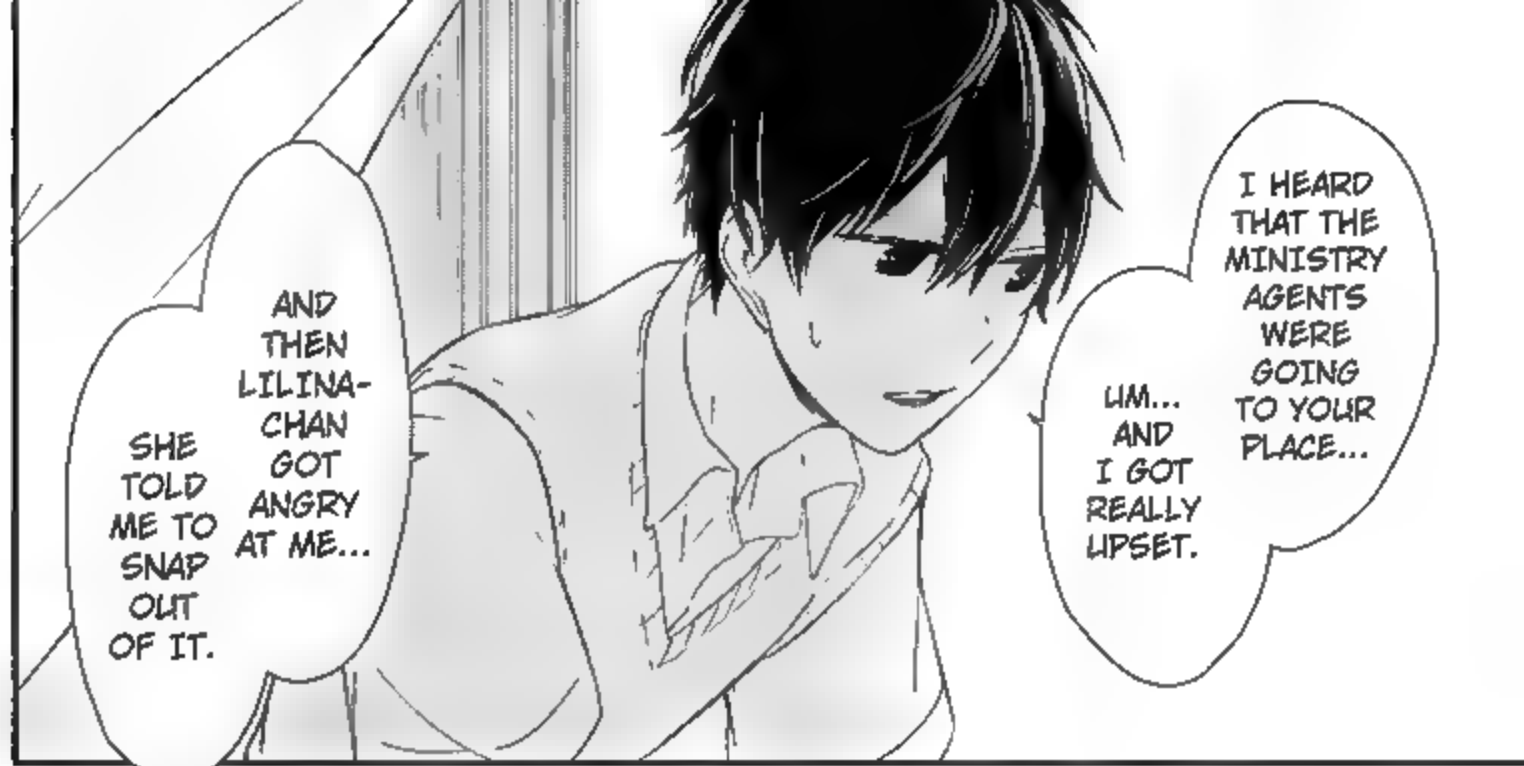


...
YES-
TERDAY
...



THAT'S
TRUE!

WELL,
LILINA-CHAN'S
A LOT MORE
RECKLESS AND
STRONG-
WILLED,
THOUGH.





...



BUT
WHOEVER
HE IS, I'LL
STILL...



WHEN
YOU DO
GET YOUR
NOTICE, I
WONDER
WHAT
HE'LL BE
LIKE...

THEY'LL
...
COME
TO YOU
EVENTUALLY
TOO,
HUH?



HUH?

HMM...
BUT...

I DON'T
REALLY
CARE
WHAT
HE'S
LIKE.





I IMAG-
INED...

WHAT
IF...



WE
WERE
THE
ONLY
PEOPLE
...




IN THE
WORLD.

WHY DID THEY FALL IN LOVE?
WHY CAN'T THEY STOP FEELING THIS WAY?
NOBODY KNOWS,
NOT EVEN GOD.

NEXT TIME: "LAUGHINGSTOCK"

Love and Lies

BY MUSAWO TSUMUGI



In a brief moment
alone together...

I imagined...
“What if...
we were the
only people
in the world.”

TRANSLATION BY JENNIFER J. WARD
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...

PEOPLE
MIGHT
LAUGH AT
US FOR
CLINGING
SO
HARD...



NO...

I
HAV-
EN'T.

DISAP-
PEAR
TOMOR-
ROW.

TO A
LOVE
THAT
MIGHT...



REMEM-
BERING
THAT
MADE ME
FEEL A
LITTLE
GUILTY
...

AND
VERY
RE-
LIEVED.

LILINA-
CHAN
ISN'T
LAUGH-
ING, I
GUESS.

BUT AT
LEAST
...



"I THINK A WORLD
WHERE YOU CAN'T
KISS THE ONE YOU
LOVE IS WAY
WEIRDER."







FOR
REAL
?!

SHE
SAID
SHE'S
COM-
ING.

SO
WHAT
...
DID
SHE
SAY?




...YEAH, I'M
DEFINITELY
GOING TO BE
OVERWHELMED.

T-TWO OF THEM
AND ONE OF ME,
HUH? THIS IS
GOING TO BE
TROUBLE...
THEY'RE GOING
TO OVERWHELM
WITH NUMBERS!



I
GOT
IT!

DON'T
BRING
ANYONE
TOO
WEIRD!



SURE,
BUT...

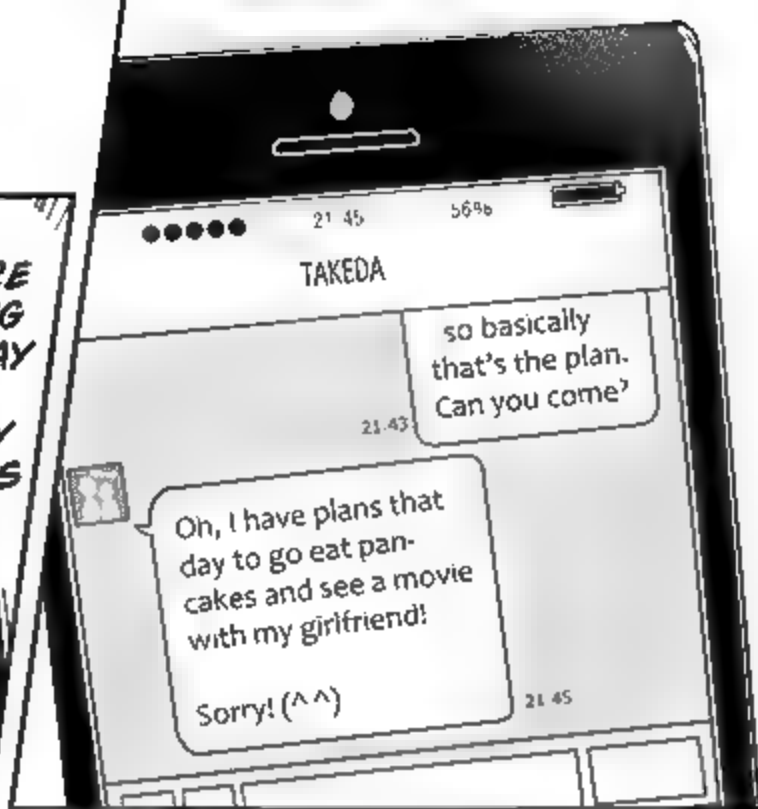
H
HEY!

CAN I
INVITE A
FRIEND
TOO?



A GOOD
GUY WITH
TIME ON
HIS
HANDS!

I NEED TO
GET ONE
MORE GUY
TO COME,
WHATEVER
IT TAKES!





I DON'T
EVEN
KNOW...
WHY
YOU
WANT
ME TO
COME.

NO.
INVITE
TAKEDA.

I-
IS
THERE
NO WAY
YOU
COULD
...



...



HOW ON
EARTH DO
YOU THINK
I COULD?

IF WE SEE
A BEAR I
WON'T BE
ABLE TO
HANDLE
IT!

WITH
YOUR
FACE?



I'LL
CRY IF
I SEE A
CRICK-
ET.

SO
AM I.

I'M
SCARED
OF
BUGS!



NEI-
THER
CAN I.

I CAN'T
MAKE A
FIRE,
YOU
KNOW!



COME
ON!



I'M
EATING,
TOO!

WITH YOU!
I CAME
HERE SO
WE COULD
EAT TO-
GETHER!

I'M
TRYING
TO EAT!
GO
SOME-
WHERE
ELSE!

GO
AWAY!



*RICE CAKES WITH FILLING





YESSS!
THANKS,
NISAKA!

...
CAMPING
WITH
ANOTHER
GUY...
UGH...



YEAH,
THAT'S
FINE.

SURE!
THE ONES
FROM THE
CONVE-
NIENCE
STORE?

ARE THEY?



I'M
REALLY
GLAD
YOU'RE
COM-
ING!

BEING
STUCK
BE-
TWEEN
TAKASAKI-
SAN AND
LILINA!

I DIDN'T
KNOW
HOW I
WAS
GOING
TO
MANAGE
...

BUT
MAN! YOU
REALLY
SAVED MY
BACON!



...
HUH?

...
...
WILL HIS INNOCENT TRUST, BE A SIN?
YUUSUKE NISAKA: THE SUMMER SIEGE!

NEXT TIME: "LOVE AND REVOLUTION"

So they're going camping!

Niji, Nisaka, Lilina and
Takasaki-san are all going.

We've got a bad feeling
about this!

Love and Lies

BY MUSAWO TSUMUGI

















NEXT TIME: "NISAKA'S TYPE"

Neji, Nisaka (Neji's friend)
Lilina (Neji's government-
arranged partner) and
Takasaki-san (the girl Neji's
been in love with for forever)
are all going camping. This is
the start of some serious drama!

And then a pretty girl who
knows Nisaka shows up...

Love and Lies

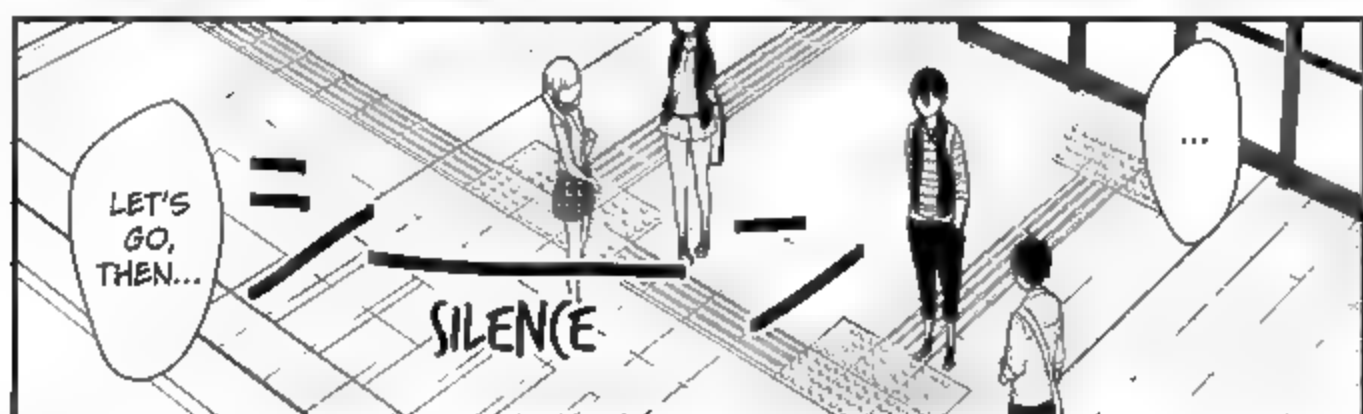
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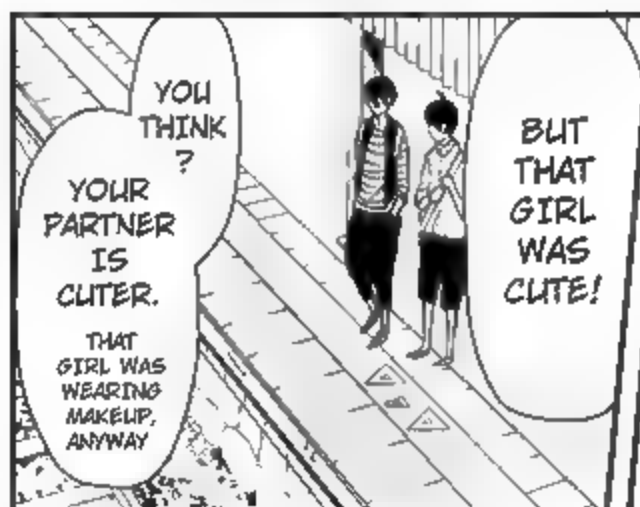
MangaBox

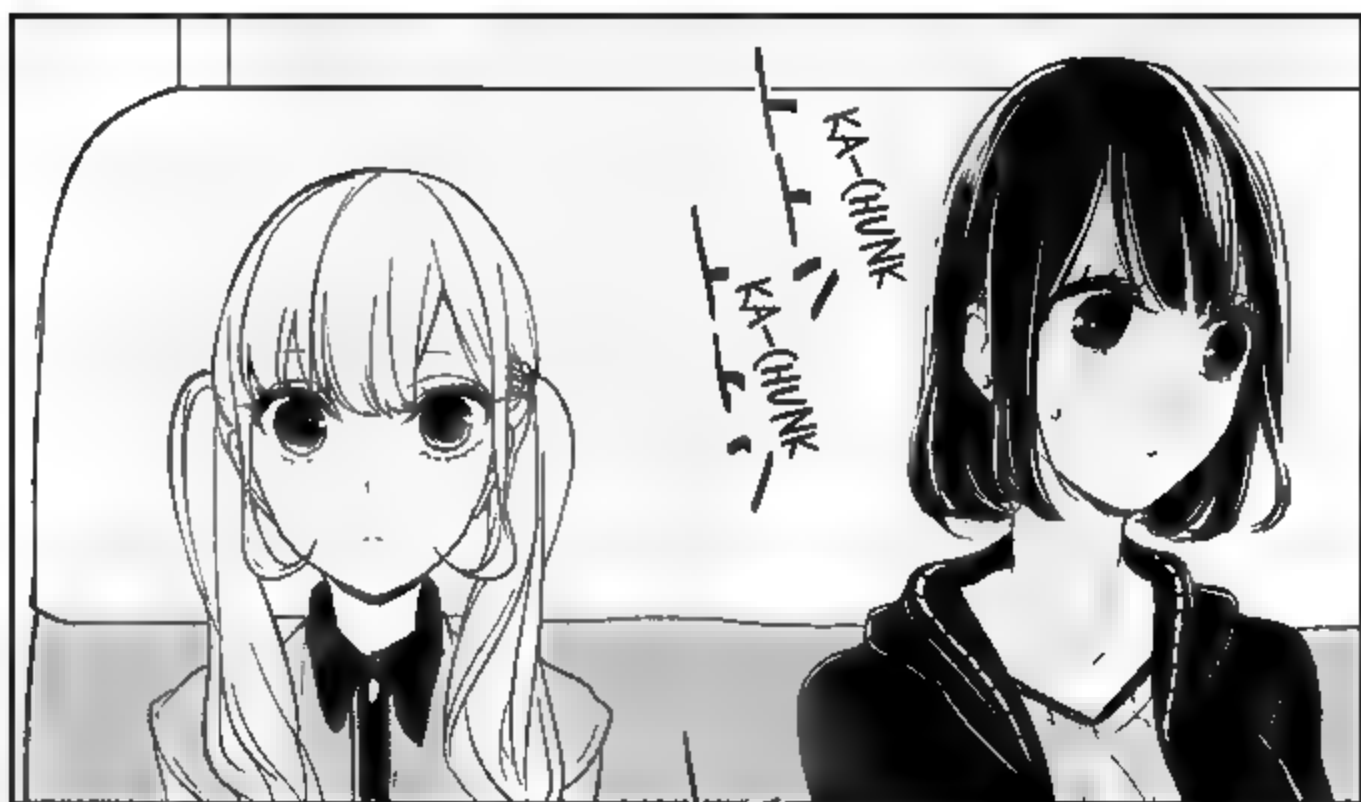
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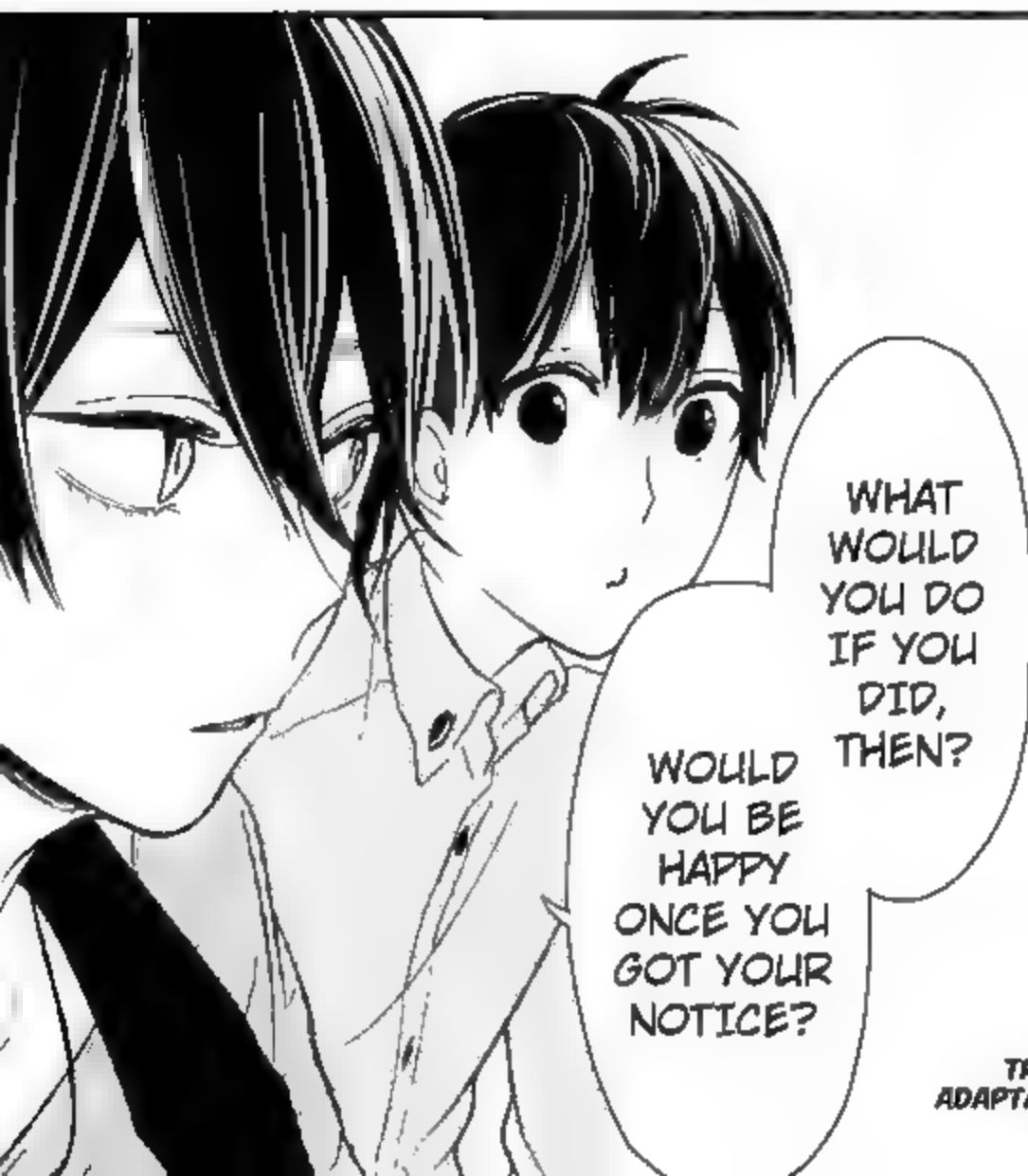




Two boys and two
girls are headed to the
campground by train.
Four people dealing
with romance, love, and
lies are on one train.

Love and Lies

BY MUSAWO TSUMUGI



 MangaBox

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ADAPTATION BY ALEXANDRA E. SWANSON
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CRUSH
(?)
CLASS-
MATE
(?)

IT'S
HARD TO
PIN HER
DOWN...

FIANCÉE
(PROB-
ABLY)

I DON'T
REALLY
KNOW
WHAT SHE
WANTS,
THOUGH...

FRIEND.

NI-
SAKA-
KUN...

BUT I
THINK ALL OF
US ARE JUST
CONFUSED
ABOUT IT.

SURE
BUT
IF WE WERE TWO
COUPLES, THIS
WOULD BE A DOUBLE
DATE, AND MAYBE IT
DOES LOOK LIKE
WE'RE ON ONE...





WHAT A GUY...
IT'S LIKE NIGHT
AND DAY COM-
PARED TO ME AND
MY DESPERATE,
FIVE-YEAR-LONG
CRUSH.



HUH? YOU'D
ACTUALLY
DATE
SOMEONE
BECAUSE
OF THAT?

DOES
THAT
EVEN
COUNT
AS DAT-
ING?



HMM!
YOU'RE SO
POPULAR,
NISAKA-
KUN!

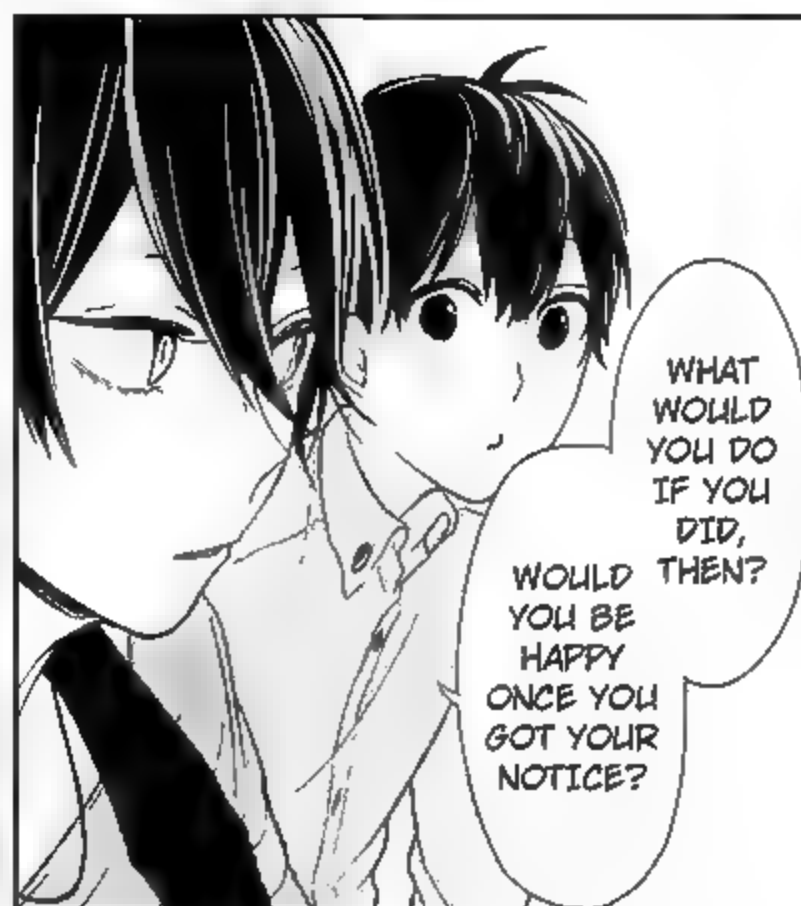
YEAH,
THERE
WAS,
BUT...



SO?
SO?
ANYONE
ELSE?
JUST
HER?

WHAT?
WE'RE
STILL
TALKING
ABOUT
THIS?







HUH ?



BUT
NOW
...

I
DON'T
THINK
IT'S
SO
BAD.



WELL...
BASI-
CALLY...

ARE YOU
GUYS
ALWAYS
LIKE
THIS?

HMM
...



BUSH
+ + +

AHA
HAHA!
OH!

LI-
LINA-
CHAN!

I GOT
TO BE
FRIENDS
WITH
MISAKI,
AFTER
ALL!



...THE
GOVERN-
MENT
NOTICE,

HUH...

NEXT TIME: "NISA'S KITCHEN"

ARE THOSE MUTTERED
WORDS OF BITTER ENVY?
THE LIGHT AND SHADOW OF
THE GOVERNMENT NOTICE
FLICKER WITHIN THE LITTLE
TRAIN CARRIAGE.

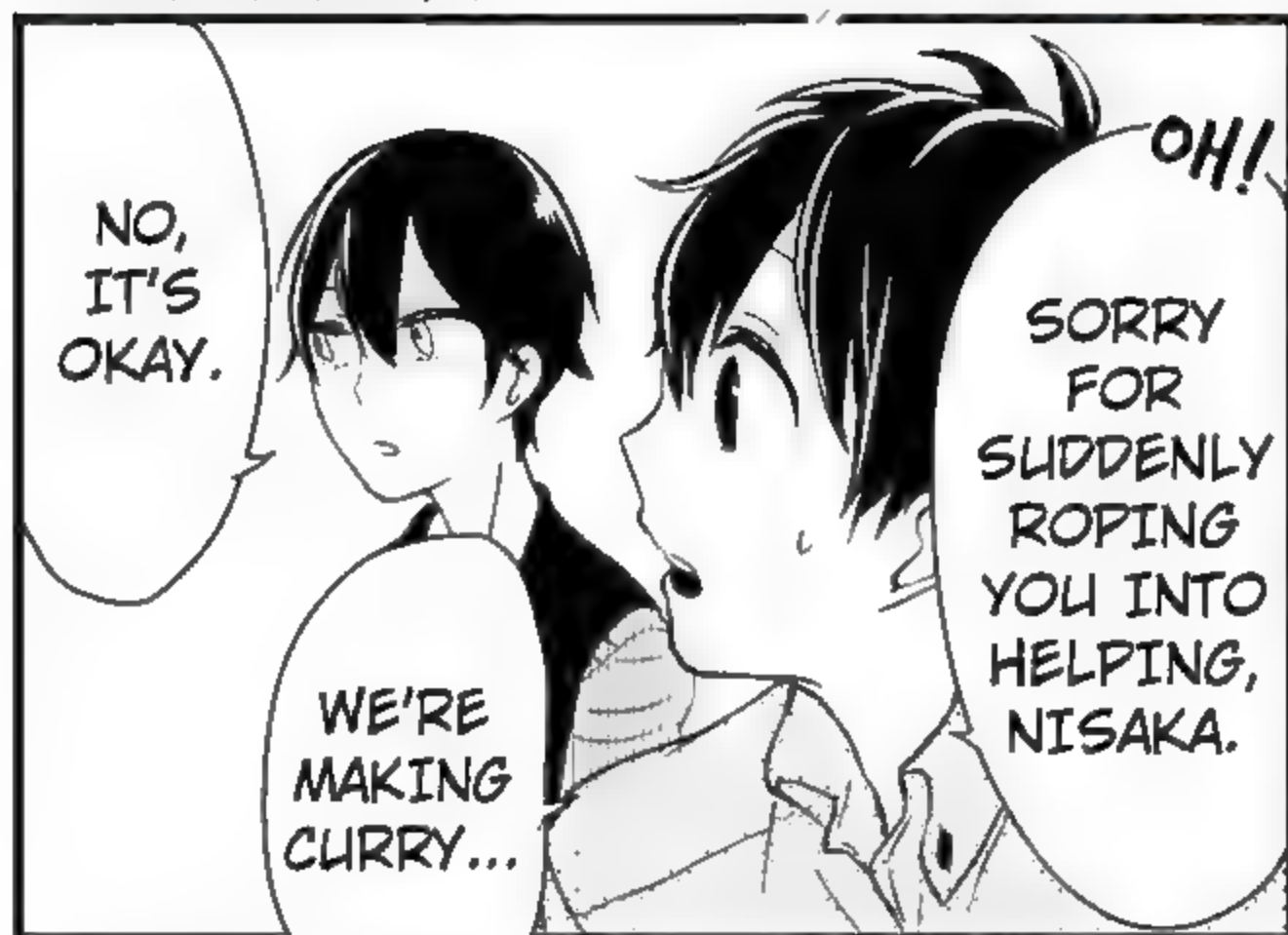
Come on!
Camping!
Mountains!
Rivers!
Curry!

Love and Lies

 MangaBox

TRANSLATION BY JENNIFER J. WARD
ADAPTATION BY ALEXANDRA E. SWANSON
YKS SERVICES LLC/SKY JAPAN, INC.

BY MUSAWO TSUMUGI



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ONTER-
ONTER-
ONTER-
ONTER-
ONTER-

MISAKI!
COME
ON,
COME
ON!

HUH? I
WONDER
WHERE
THEY'RE
GOING...



WE'RE
HERE!

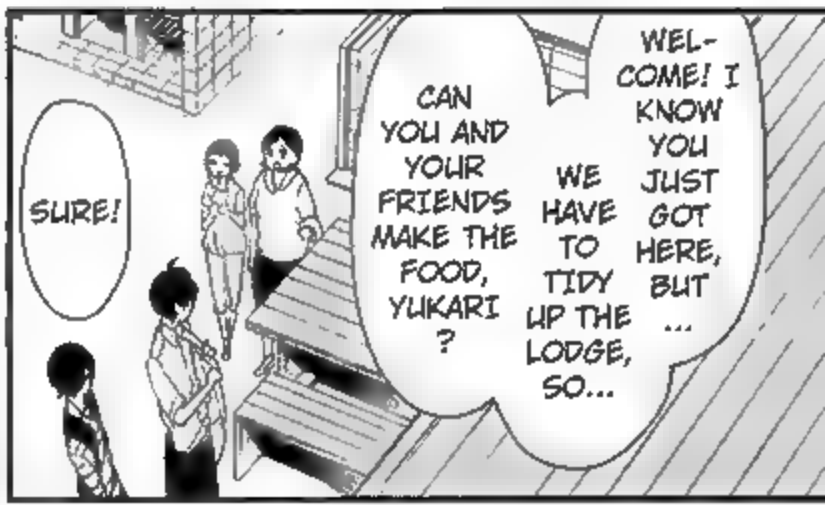


GASP

I BET
HE'S
LIKE
AN AWE-
SOME
COOK!

LIKE
THE TYPE
TO POUR
OLIVE
OIL IN
FROM ONE
METER
UP!!
I CAN COUNT
ON HIM,
THEN!

**NISA'S
KITCHEN**



SURE!

CAN
YOU AND
YOUR
FRIENDS
MAKE THE
FOOD,
YUKARI
?

WE
HAVE
TO
TIDY
UP THE
LODGE,
SO...

WEL-
COME! I
KNOW
YOU
JUST
GOT
HERE,
BUT
...

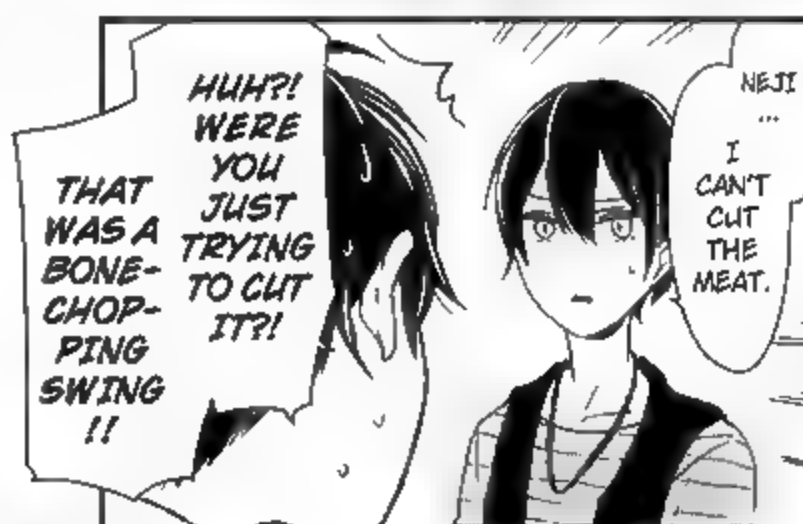


NO,
IT'S
OKAY.

WE'RE
MAKING
CURRY...

OH!

SORRY
FOR
SUDDENLY
ROPING
YOU INTO
HELPING,
NISAKA.





NO, I AM! MOVE IT, FUGLY!

I'M GONNA SHOW NISAKA-KUN MY TALENTS!

SCREECH

OH, I CAN PICTURE THAT.

USUALLY GIRLS WOULD FIGHT OVER THE KNIFE AND WOULDN'T LET ME TOUCH IT.

AND THEN BEFORE I KNEW IT, CLASS WAS OVER



HOW DID YOU HANDLE HOME EC CLASS? SERIOUSLY!

LIKE WHEN WE PRACTICED COOKING!

TSUNAWAKA-KUN!

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE ACTUALLY SUCH AN INCOMPETENT COOK. I'M SO SURPRISED

SIGH



HAVEN'T SEEN THAT KIND IN A WHILE

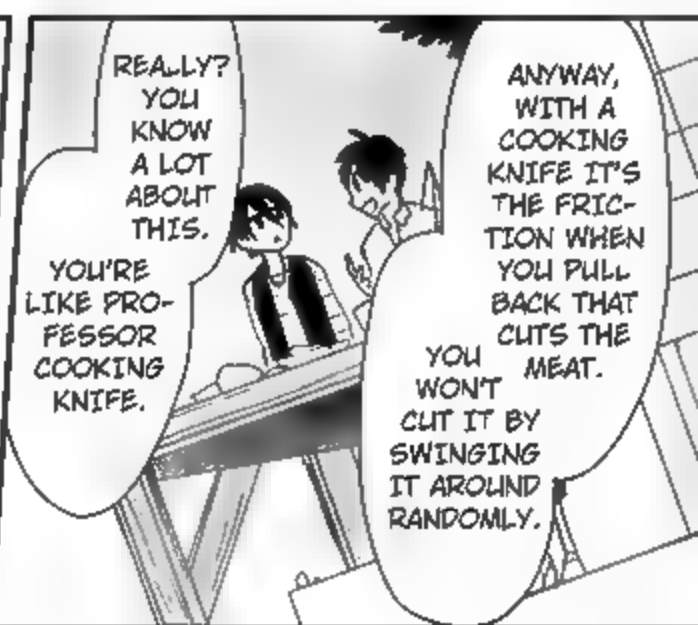
A PROUD

I MAY NOT LOOK LIKE IT, BUT I HELPED A LOT WITH HOUSEWORK AROUND THE TIME MY SISTER WAS BORN!

I MADE CURRY EVERY DAY, THOUGH.

HM.

OH! A BEE-TLE.



REALLY? YOU KNOW A LOT ABOUT THIS.

YOU'RE LIKE PROFESSOR COOKING KNIFE.

ANYWAY, WITH A COOKING KNIFE IT'S THE FRICTION WHEN YOU PULL BACK THAT CUTS THE MEAT.

YOU WON'T CUT IT BY SWINGING IT AROUND RANDOMLY.



HOW MUCH DETERGENT SHOULD I USE?



BY THE WAY, NEJI ...



HUH? DON'T TREAT ME LIKE A MORON!

OH! THAT'S GREAT!

ANYWAY, I'LL GET THINGS MOVING, SO YOU JUST WASH THE VEGGIES.

OH - YOU CAN AT LEAST DO THAT, RIGHT?





EEK!
IT'S SO
COLD!

IT'S
PRETTY
DEEP,

HUH?



AAAACK!

AH-

NO NEED TO FREAK OUT!
JUST TAKE A GOOD LOOK
AT THAT, NEJI!

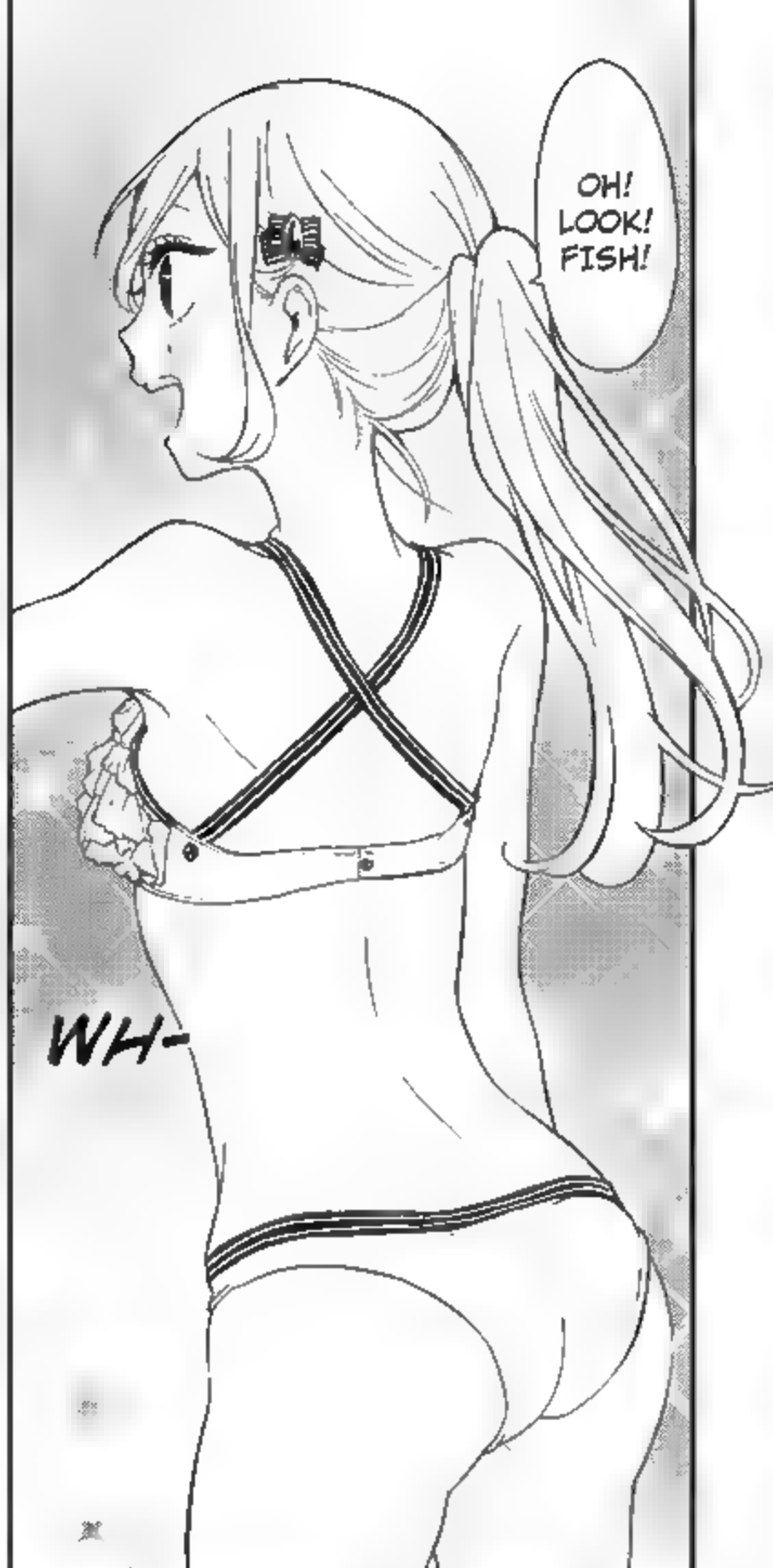
NEXT TIME: "DON'T TOUCH. IT'S HOT!"

Camping in June...
It's still a little cold, so
nobody's going to wear a
swimsuit then, right?
That wouldn't happen.
They're in the mountains.
This is a river.

Love and Lies

But wait!







...WAIT, NO!
BAD BAD BAD!

I SHOULD CALL OUT TO
THEM FROM FURTHER
AWAY, LIKE I NEVER SAW
THEM AT ALL!

OKAY! LET'S
DO THAT!



YU-
KARI
?

WHAT
ARE
YOU
DOING
THERE
?

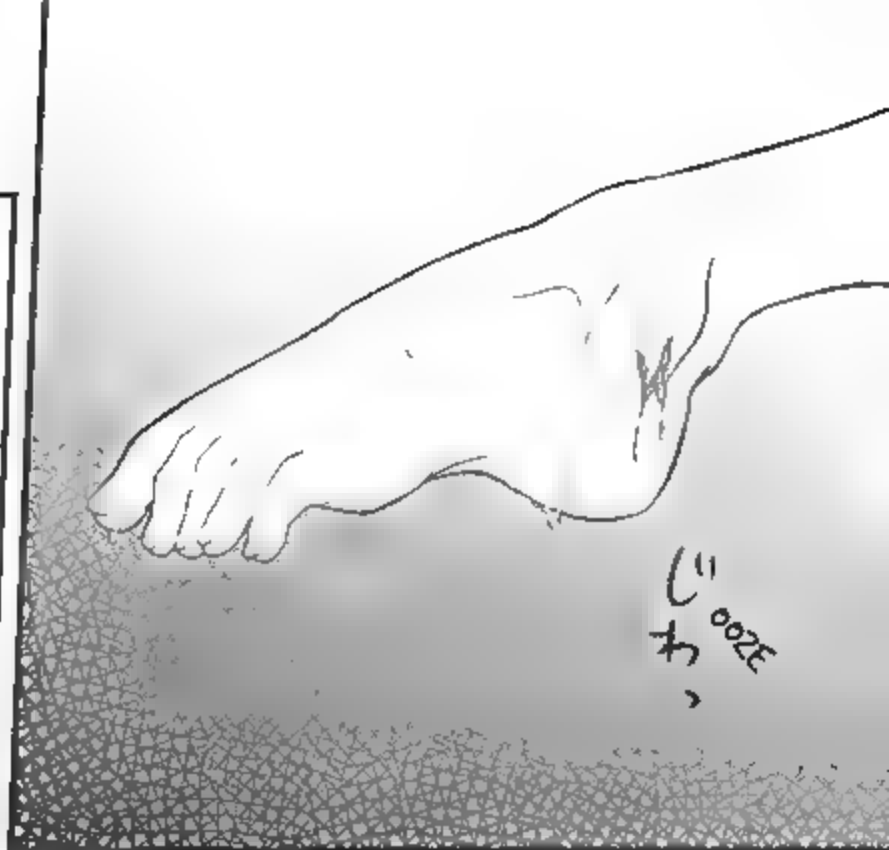
TOYATTOYOT~

FLINCH











NEXT TIME: "YUKARI'S BODY TEMPERATURE"

Neji, Nisaka,
Takasaki-san and Lilina
are going camping.

Lilina's hurt her foot,
and Neji is holding
her in his arms.

Lilina doesn't really
get what that means.

Love and Lies



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BUT, MAN...

GIRLS' SKIN IS SO AMAZING...

IT'S REALLY SOFT AND SMOOTH...

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE FELT IT...



はぁあ...
BLUSH

...



AMINI



AND SHE KIND OF SMELLS NICE TOO...

I WONDER IF IT'S BECAUSE SHE GOT WET?



SIDE

HOIST

OH...

I SHOULD TRY NOT TO DROP HER...











AND
LILINA-
CHAN...

I LIKE
BOTH
NEJIMA-
KUN...



...SO
THAT'S
WHY.

HMM.

WHEN
I SAID
I WAS
GOING...

LILINA-
CHAN
WAS SO
HAPPY...

HMM
?

WHAT
THE HECK
IS WITH
HER?



...
NISAKA AND TAKASAKI-SAN
ARE A BETTER MATCH.
SHE'S OUT OF HIS LEAGUE. IT'S A LOVE THAT'S NOT ALLOWED.

THE BLUE SKY PIERCES THROUGH HIS SMALL CHEST.

NEXT TIME: "NEJI'S DREAM"

Neji and Lilina's families
are camping together!

Neji and Lilina are
arranged to be engaged,
but Neji likes Takasaki-san.
Lilina-chan is encouraging
them for some reason.

And then Nisaka...
who knows?

Love and Lies








JAPAN
STILL
DIDN'T
HAVE A
WRITTEN
LANGU-
AGE.

D-DID
YOU
KNOW?

IN THE
ERA THE
KOFUN
WERE
MADE...




DON'T
YOU
THINK
THAT'S
AMAZ-
ING?

WE
CAN
ONLY
IMAG-
INE.

NOBODY EVEN
KNOWS WHAT
THE PEOPLE
BURIED THERE
WERE LIKE,
WHAT PEOPLE
THOUGHT OF
THEM OR WHY
THEY WERE
ENSHRINED
THERE.

SO WE
DON'T
KNOW
VERY
MUCH
ABOUT
THOSE
AMAZ-
ING

THAT
HAVE
BEEN
PART OF
OUR GEO-
GRAPHY FOR
NEARLY TWO
THOUSAND
YEARS.



SUCH A HUGE GRAVE
SHOULD MAKE THAT
PERSON'S IDENTITY
SO DEFINITE...

AND THEN THERE'S THE
MOMENT YOU STEP INTO THE
SITE... FOLLOWING THE
TRACES LEFT BEHIND THAT
MAY BE REAL OR FAKE...

BUT INSTEAD THEY'RE FULL
OF INFINITE POSSIBILITIES.

IMAGINING THE LORD
OF THAT KOFUN...



SO FOR
NOW...

I THINK
I'D LIKE TO
STUDY UNDER
PROFESSOR
FURUMORI,
WHO DOES
CLASSES
AT THE
PREFECTURAL
UNIVERSITY
WITH LOTS OF
FIELD EXCA-
VATION...



AND
THEN GET
CERTIFIED
AS A
CURATOR
AND WORK
AT AN
ARTIFACT
MUSEUM
AFTER I GRADU-
ATE...

AND HOPE-
FULLY I
CAN DO
SOME EX-
CAVATION
RESEARCH
ON MY
DAYS
OFF!



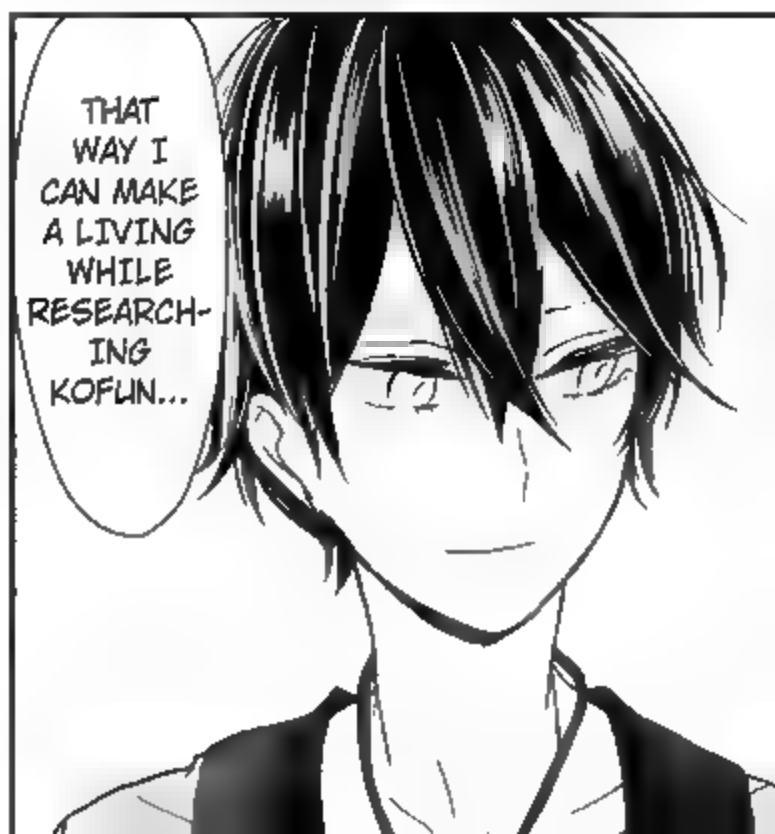
I
REALLY
LOVE
THAT
MOMENT
!



NO,
IT'S
OKAY.

IT'S
GREAT
TO HAVE
GOALS.

...SORRY!
I JUST
GET
REALLY
EXCITED
ABOUT
KOFUN!



THAT
WAY I
CAN MAKE
A LIVING
WHILE
RESEARCH-
ING
KOFUN...



DON'T
GIVE
UP.



I'VE
ALWAYS
RAMBLLED
AND
FAILED
LIKE
THIS,
THOUGH
...



BUT
THAT'S
BECAUSE
YOU LOVE
THEM
JUST SO
MUCH,
RIGHT?



YES,
SIR!



YOUR
PART-
NER'S
AMBI-
TIONS
AND
STUFF
ARE
IMPORT-
ANT.

I MEAN,
HE IS
YOUR
FIANCEÉ.



WHAT
?

WHY
WOULD
I?

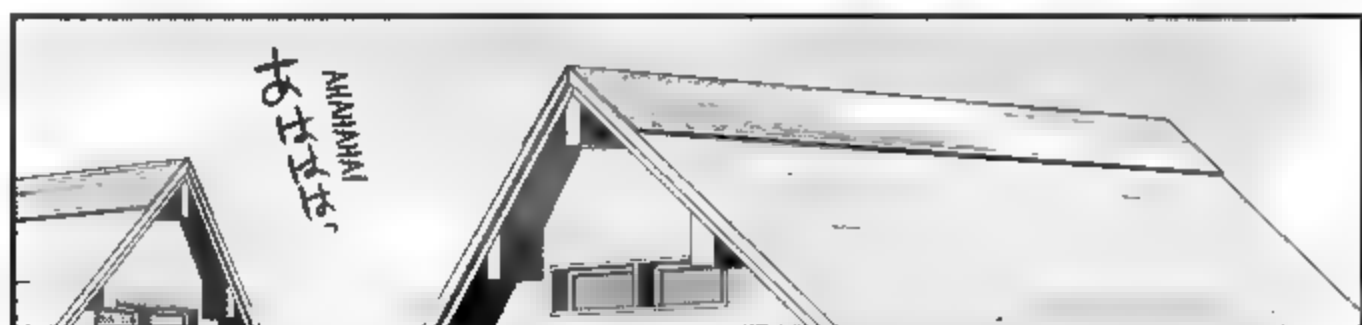
HUH
?!

SO DO
YOU TALK
ABOUT
YOUR
FUTURE
AND
STUFF
WITH
NEJI?



SA
NADA-
SAN...









POOR
TAKA-
SAKI.

~~~~~  
SIGH



OH,  
YEAH,  
LIKE  
THIS  
AFTER-  
NOON.  
HAHA.

YOUR  
FIANCÉE  
SEEMS TO  
REALLY  
LIKE THAT  
STUFF.



...



NISAKA PROBABLY...

NOTICED A LONG  
TIME AGO THAT I LIKE  
TAKASAKI-SAN...

SO HE'S  
BEING CAREFUL  
WITH ME...

EVEN IF  
HE LIKES  
TAKASAKI-SAN,  
HE'S PRETENDING  
NOTHING IS  
WRONG...



HEY,  
NISA-  
KA...

CAN I  
ASK YOU  
SOME-  
THING?



HEY.

THAT'S  
TOO  
CLOSE  
...

YOU'RE  
...



PUNCH  
23 V

THIS IS THE STORY OF  
INCONSEQUENTIAL BOYS WHO LOVE  
WITH THEIR LIVES ON THE LINE.



HIDING  
SOME-  
THING  
FROM  
ME...

AREN'T  
YOU?

NEXT TIME: "THE DISCREPANCY IN CHAPTER 4.5"

The two boys are alone at night, asking each other questions.

“Are you hiding something?”

“Is there a girl you like?”

The answers might end their friendship, though...

# Love and Lies

**BY MUSAWO TSUMUGI**

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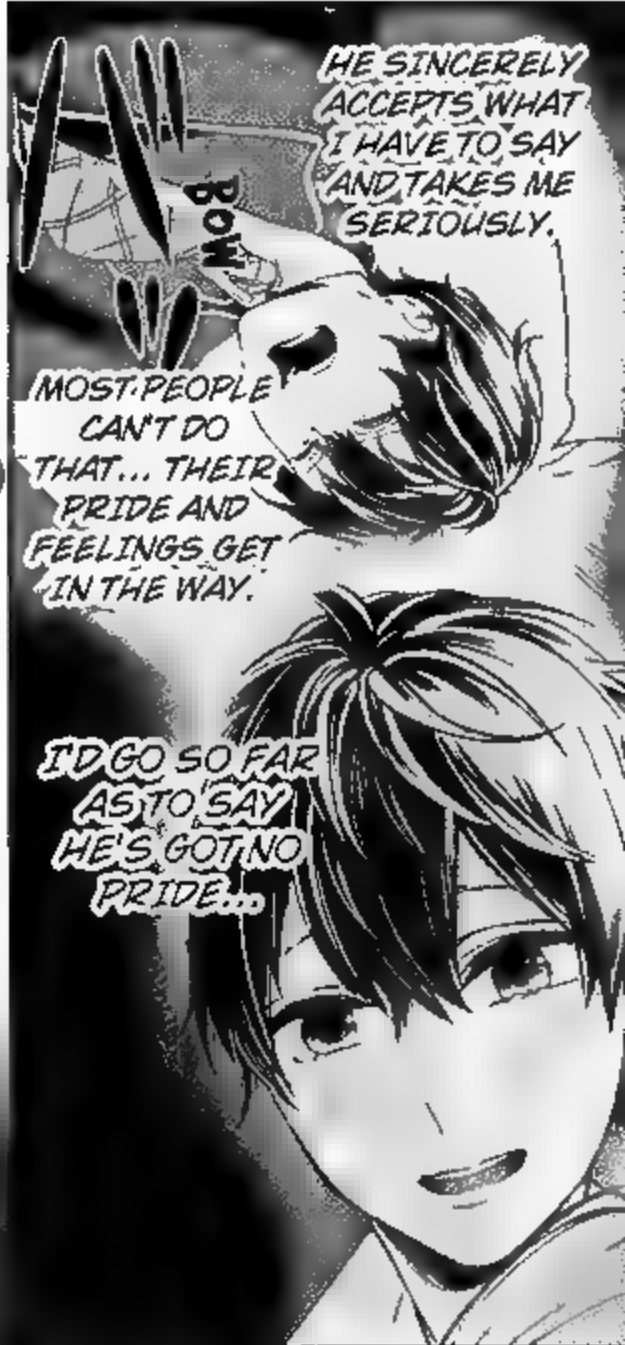






BUT I  
THINK  
THERE'S  
MERIT  
IN THAT.

IT'S  
NOT  
SOME-  
THING  
I CAN  
DO.



HE SINCERELY  
ACCEPTS WHAT  
I HAVE TO SAY  
AND TAKES ME  
SERIOUSLY.

BOW  
MOST PEOPLE  
CAN'T DO  
THAT... THEIR  
PRIDE AND  
FEELINGS GET  
IN THE WAY.

I'D GO SO FAR  
AS TO SAY  
HE'S GOT NO  
PRIDE...



BUT  
ANYWAY, I  
WONDER  
HOW  
THEY'RE  
DOING  
RIGHT  
NOW?

HEH  
HEH

...  
WHO?



OH! WE  
HIT THE  
POINT  
WE'RE  
SUPPOSED  
TO TURN  
AROUND AT  
WHILE WE  
WERE  
TALKING!

...  
YOU'RE...  
SURPRIS-  
INGLY...



At night while camping...

Neji and Takasaki-san  
have a secret date under  
the pretense of a date.

Romance: 8

Sin: 2

# Love and Lies

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OH...

Y  
YEAH

SORRY.  
WAS SHE  
PRETTY  
AGGRESSIVE  
INVITING  
YOU  
CAMPING,  
TOO?

AHHA

SHE'S  
THE ONE  
WHO  
CAME UP  
WITH  
THIS,  
ISN'T  
SHE?

LILINA  
IS SO  
BOSSY  
...



...

I WAS  
LOOKING  
FOR-  
WARD TO  
THIS

O-  
OH...  
THAT'S  
GOOD

NO,  
NOT AT  
ALL.



...OH-  
ACK!

ど  
ろ  
ろ  
ら



HM  
...?

NO,  
IT'S  
NOTH-  
ING.



HUH  
?

IT'S  
LIKE  
SHE'S  
ALREADY  
FAMILY,  
HUH?





I DIDN'T  
THINK  
WE'D  
NEED ONE  
BECAUSE  
OF THE  
MOON,  
BUT...

NOW  
I WISH  
WE'D  
BROUGHT  
A FLASH-  
LIGHT.

WHERE  
WAS MY  
FLASH-  
LIGHT  
APP  
AGAIN?

...

IT'S  
SO  
DARK,  
I CAN'T  
SEE...

Y-  
YEAH... I  
THINK I  
TRIPPED  
ON A  
ROOT ...

ARE  
YOU  
OKAY?



IT'S  
DARK,  
SO IT'S  
DANGER-  
OUS...

DO  
YOU...  
WANT  
TO...

HOLD  
HANDS?

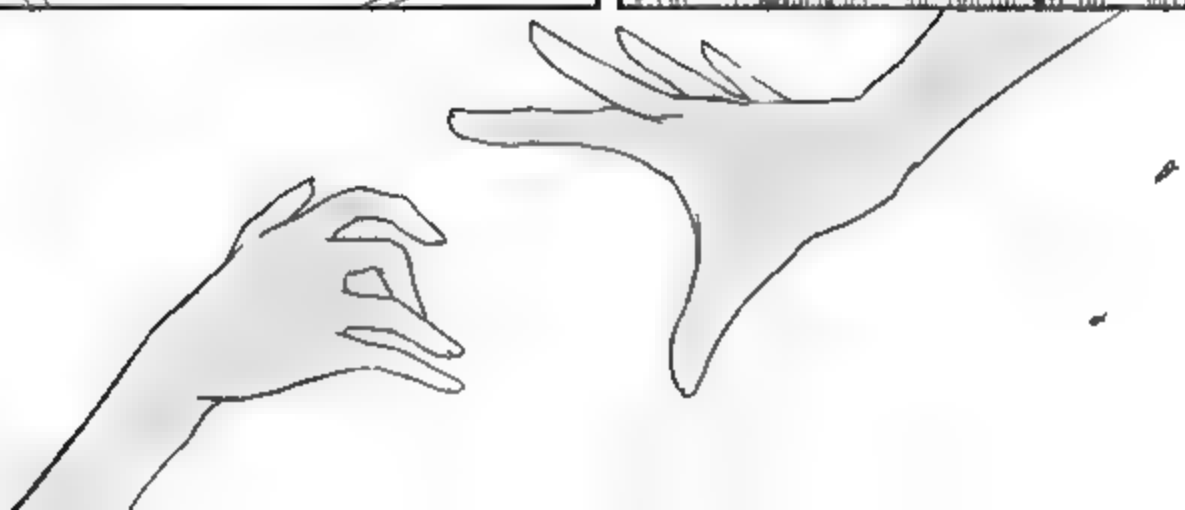
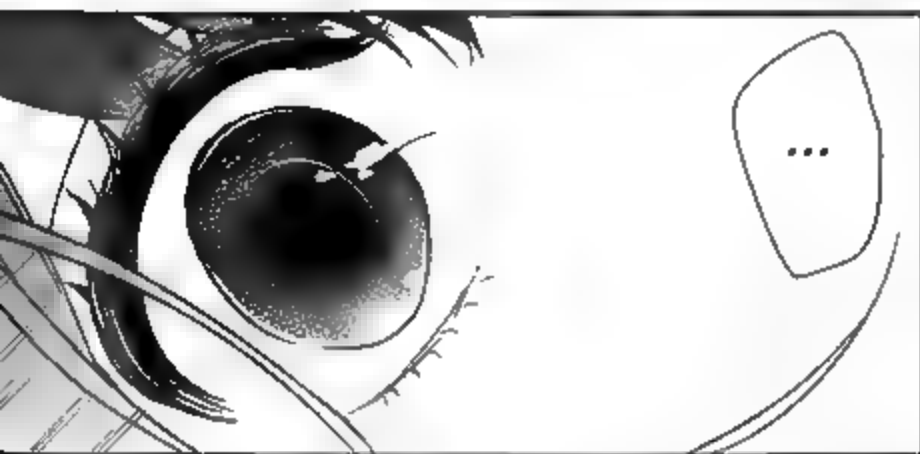


...I MEAN,  
LILI-CHAN  
HURT HER  
ANKLE  
TODAY,  
DIDN'T SHE?

YEAH

...!









A HESITATION, AND THEN SHE GRABBED HIS HAND.  
THE NIGHT... IS DEEP.

NEXT TIME: "JUST TONIGHT"

During their camping trip,  
Neji and Takasaki-san are  
out for a walk at night. They  
made a wrong step and fell  
down a slope...together.

# Love and Lies

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SORRY!  
ARE YOU  
OKAY?



OH!

UH...



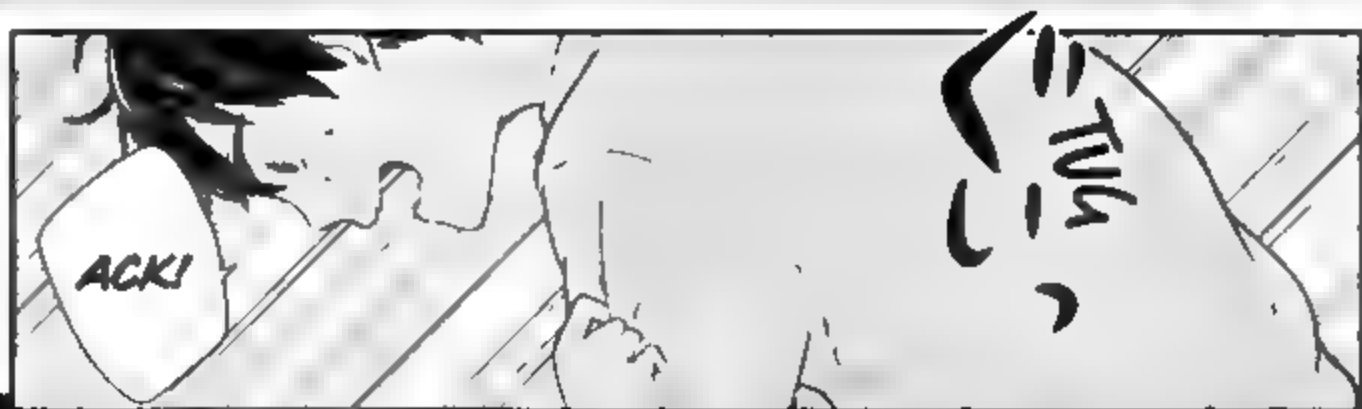
...



I  
THOUGHT  
I WAS  
GOING  
TO DIE.



HUH...?





CAN  
WE  
STAY  
LIKE  
THIS  
...  
JUST  
FOR A  
LITTLE  
BIT?



IF YOU  
ACTUALLY  
MANAGE TO  
GET NEJI  
AND TAKASAKI  
TOGETHER  
BY PLAYING  
MATCH-  
MAKER...

OH, MY  
BAD. LET  
ME PUT  
THIS AN-  
OTHER  
WAY...



IT'S  
NOT  
LIKE I'M  
DOING  
ANYTHING  
ILLEGAL!

WHAT  
THE  
HECK  
DO YOU  
MEAN?



WELL  
...

I'LL  
BE  
WITH--

YOU'LL  
BE  
WITH  
THEM?



WHERE  
WILL  
YOU BE  
THEN?





HE  
MIGHT  
BE EVEN  
STUPIDER  
AND LESS  
RELIABLE  
THAN  
NEJI...

AND  
MORE OF A  
PERVERTED  
JERK THAN  
I AM.



EVEN  
IF YOU  
END UP  
MARRYING  
SOME  
OTHER MAN  
YOU DON'T  
KNOW?



...  
  
Y-  
YES, I  
COULD!



BUT IF  
YOU STILL  
WANNA TRY  
TO GET THEM  
TOGETHER  
KNOWING  
THAT, THEN  
GO AHEAD.

I CAN'T  
SAY I  
APPROVE,  
THOUGH.



THERE'S  
NO PUN-  
ISHMENT  
FOR GOING  
AGAINST  
IT!

...?!  
  
THE  
NOTICE  
IS JUST A  
MATCH-  
MAKING  
SER-  
VICE!

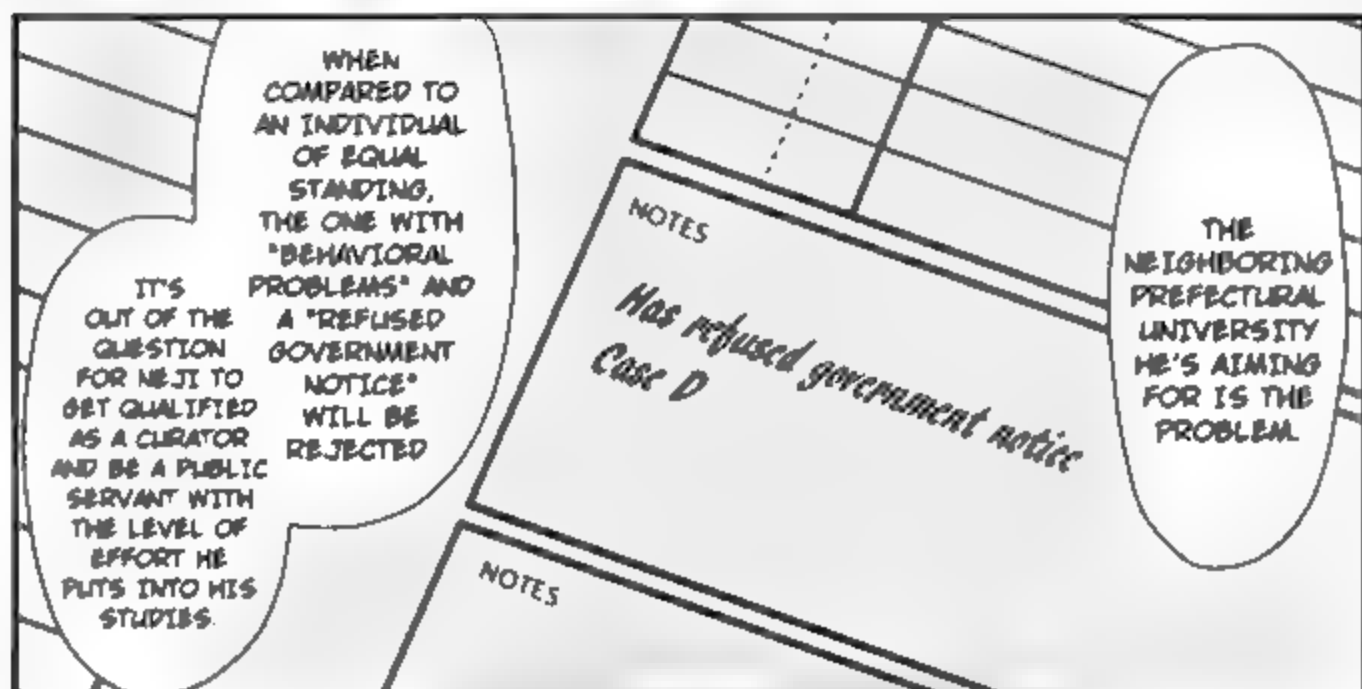
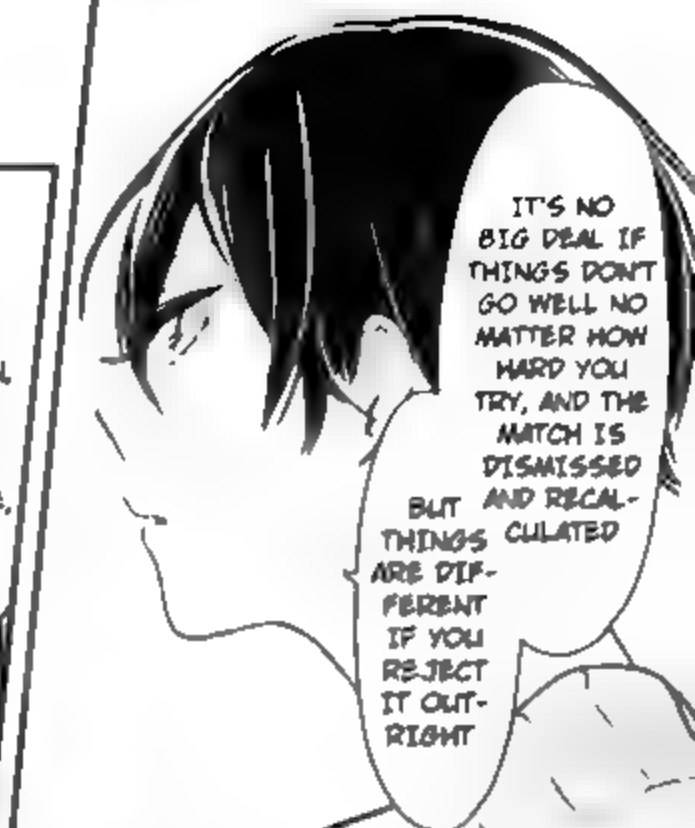
NOT  
OFFI-  
CIALLY.



YOU'LL  
BE FINE,  
BUT  
THERE'LL  
BE A  
PENALTY  
FOR HIM.

AND  
BY THE  
WAY...  
  
IF  
THINGS  
GO AS YOU  
WANT, AND  
NEJI  
REFUSES  
THE GOV-  
ERNMENT  
NOTICE...







IN  
OTHER  
WORDS

WHAT  
YOU'RE  
TRYING  
TO DO...

MAYBE  
YOU WERE  
JUST  
TRYING  
TO BE A  
FRIEND  
AND CHEER  
ON THEIR  
RELATION-  
SHIP,  
BUT...

WILL  
ONLY MAKE  
NEJI  
UNHAPPY.

YOU'RE A  
PRETTY  
CRAPPY  
MATCH-  
MAKER.



HIS WORDS STAB  
HER LIKE A KNIFE--  
BUT THAT BLADE IS  
DOUBLE-EDGED.

NEXT TIME: "REUNION"

The night of their camping trip...

Nisaka tells Lilina that she's crazy for supporting Neji and Misaki's relationship.

This is a world where the government decides your relationships for you.

# Love and Lies



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THEY'RE ALIVE...  
LOVE AND DREAMS!  
CROSSING IN THE SILENCE...

NEXT TIME: "MALE AND FEMALE"

# Love and Lies

Neji, Nisaka, Takasaki-san and Lilina are all camping together.

At night, the four meet up. All four of them are struggling with their own issues. Each of them will remember this night for the rest of their lives.







OH YEAH.  
IT'S JUNE,  
SO THEY'RE  
OUT NOW,  
AREN'T  
THEY?



ARE  
THEY...  
FIRE-  
FLIES?

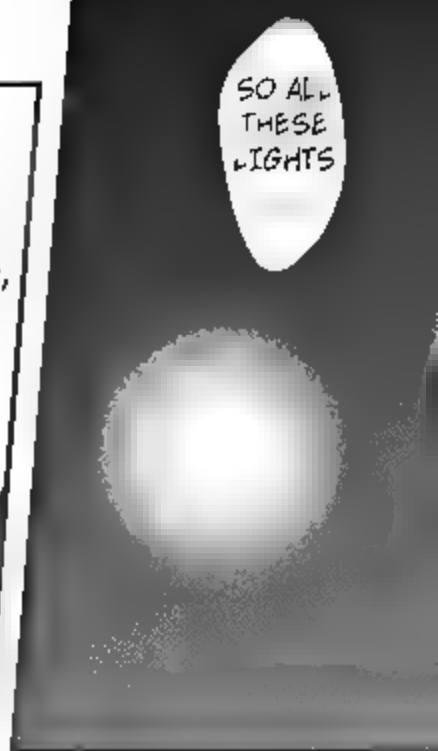


THEY'RE  
SO PRETTY...  
IT LOOKS AS  
IF THEY'RE  
LEAVING  
TRAILS OF  
LIGHT IN  
THE AIR.



I  
THINK  
IT'S  
GENJI  
FIREFLIES  
THAT  
COME OUT  
AROUND  
THIS  
TIME?







THEN  
THIS  
LIGHT...

IS THEM  
PUTTING  
THEIR  
LIVES ON  
THE LINE  
FOR LOVE,  
HUH?



YEAH...

I GUESS  
THEY'RE  
NOT SO  
BAD.

IF I  
PRETEND  
THEY'RE  
NOT  
BUGS.



SAME  
HERE.

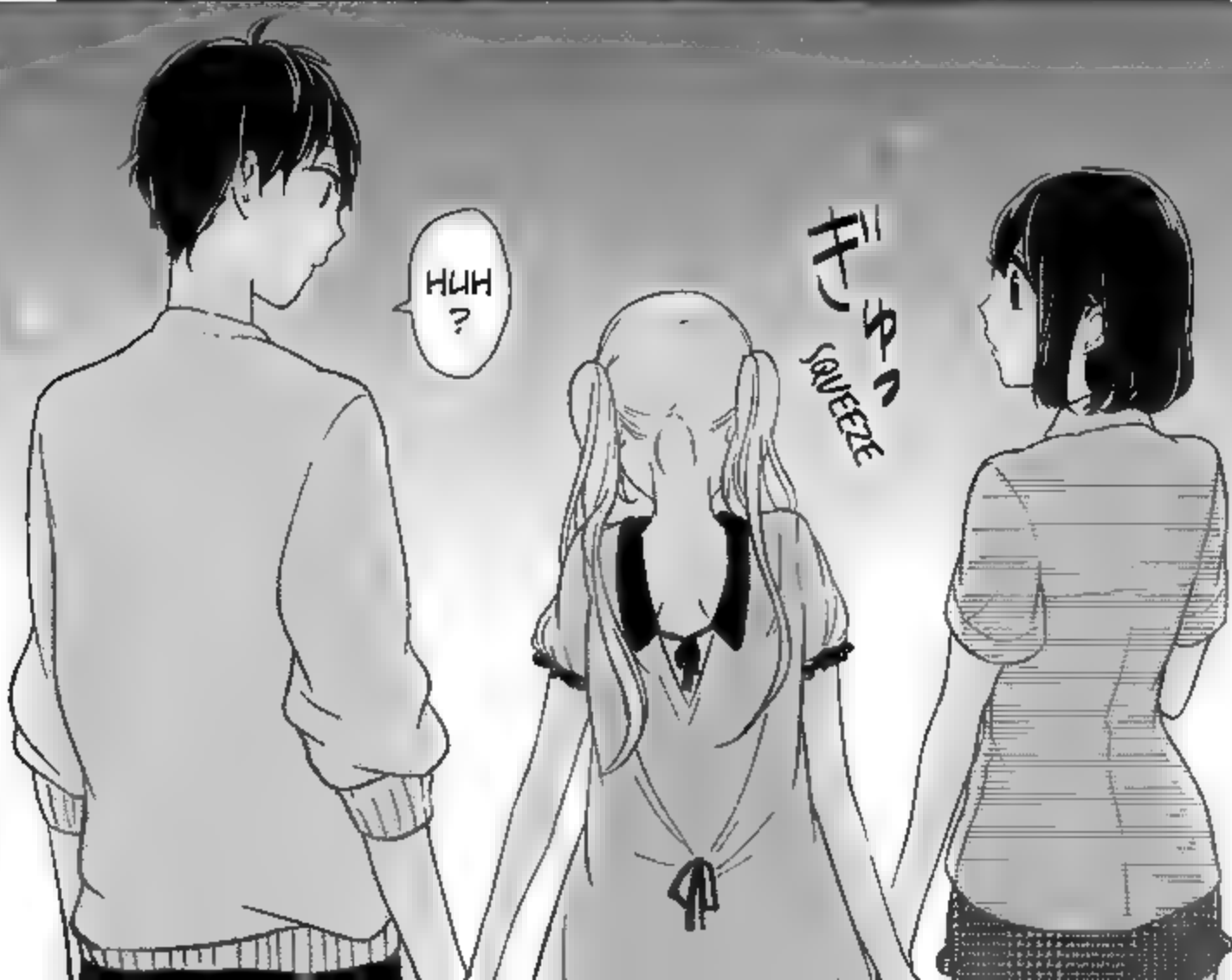
!

THIS  
IS THE  
FIRST TIME  
I'VE EVER  
SEEN FIRE-  
FLIES.



REALLY  
...?

FIREFLIES  
ONLY DRINK  
WATER AND  
THEN DIE ONCE  
THEY'VE LAID  
THEIR EGGS, IF  
I REMEMBER  
THAT RIGHT.







LEAVING  
NOTHING  
BEHIND  
...

THOUGH  
THEY'LL  
DISAP-  
PEAR...



RIGHT  
NOW,  
THESE  
LIGHTS  
...

ARE SO  
DESPER-  
ATELY...

FALLING  
IN  
LOVE.



FRIENDS,

CRUSHES,

FIANCEES

...

NONE  
OF THAT  
MATTERS.





IN THAT  
MOMENT,



I DIDN'T  
KNOW  
WHAT  
THE  
OTHERS  
WERE  
THINK-  
ING.

THE  
FOUR  
OF US  
WATCH-  
ING THE  
SAME  
SCENE.

I WAS  
JUST  
GLAD...



THAT  
WE ALL  
GOT TO  
SEE IT  
TOGETH-  
ER.

IT WOULD BE NICE IF THEY  
COULD ALL MELT TOGETHER NOW...

JUST LIKE THOSE DESPERATE  
LIGHTS THAT WILL EVENTUALLY  
MELT INTO THE DARKNESS.

NEXT TIME: "HEARTS IGNITING"



LILINA SANADA, AGE 16 (BORN MARCH 31ST, GRADE 11). 152CM TALL. ONE-QUARTER WHITE. HER GRANDMOTHER ON HER FATHER'S SIDE WAS GERMAN. SHE'S GOOD AT SCHOOL, BUT BAD WITH PEOPLE. HER NICKNAME IS "SNOOTY SANADA." HER FATHER IS A VETERINARIAN. ONLY CHILD



YUKARI NEJIMA, AGE 15 (BORN MAY 8TH, GRADE 10). 17CM TALL. BELOW AVERAGE IN EVERYTHING. HE LOVES KOFUN (ANCIENT TOMBS) AND HISTORY. LOVES TAKASAKI-SAN EVEN MORE. HAS ONE BABY SISTER.

# Love and Lies



YUUSUKE NISAKA, AGE 15 (BORN DECEMBER 22ND, GRADE 10). 174CM TALL. HANDSOME. HIS GRADES ARE SO GOOD, HE COULD HAVE GOTTEN INTO A BETTER SCHOOL. HE DOES PRETTY WELL IN SPORTS AND EVERYTHING ELSE. HE WON'T WASTE HIS TIME ON ANYTHING POINTLESS; HE'S ALWAYS CONSERVING ENERGY. NEVER PUTS HIS ALL INTO ANYTHING. DOESN'T HAVE MANY FRIENDS. LOTS OF GIRLS WANT HIM, BUT HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY FEMALE FRIENDS.

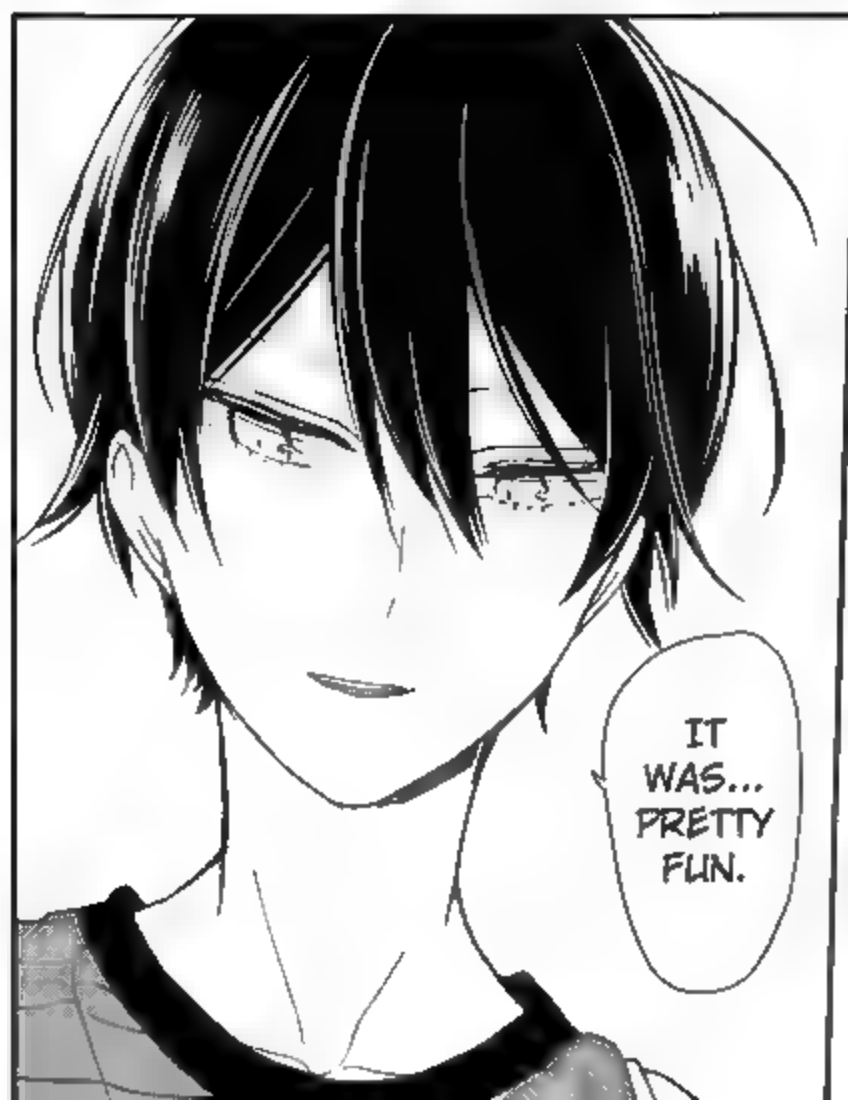


MISAKI TAKASAKI, AGE 16 (BORN APRIL 14TH, GRADE 10). 160CM TALL. "MOST BOYS SEE HER AS COMPLETELY UNATTAINABLE. SHE HAS LOTS OF FEMALE FRIENDS, BUT SHE DOESN'T TALK ABOUT HERSELF, AND NO ONE KNOWS MUCH ABOUT HER PRIVATE LIFE."

THIS IS A WORK OF FICTION. NAMES, CHARACTERS, PLACES, AND INCIDENTS ARE THE PRODUCTS OF THE AUTHOR'S IMAGINATION OR ARE USED FICTITIOUSLY.



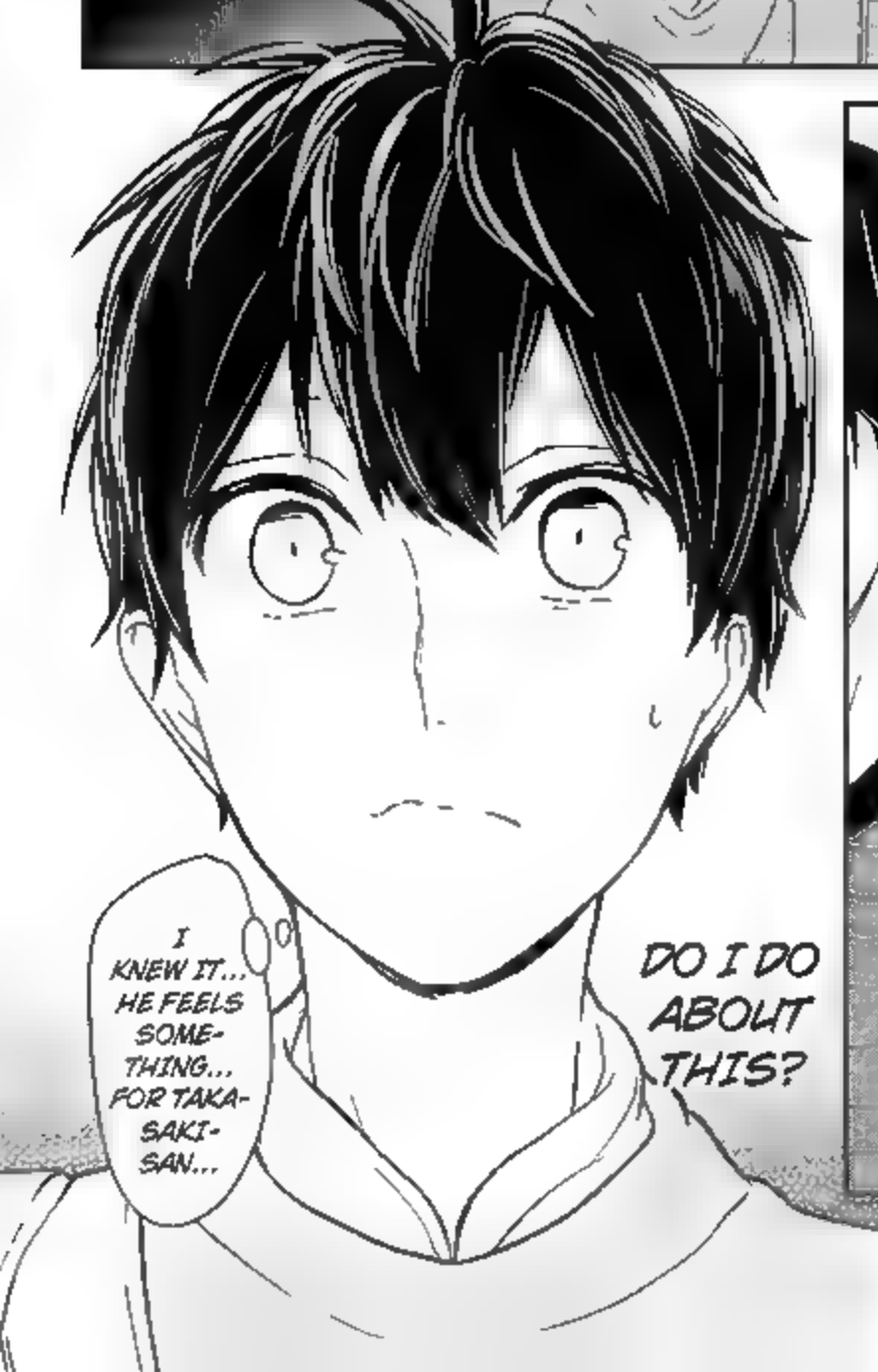




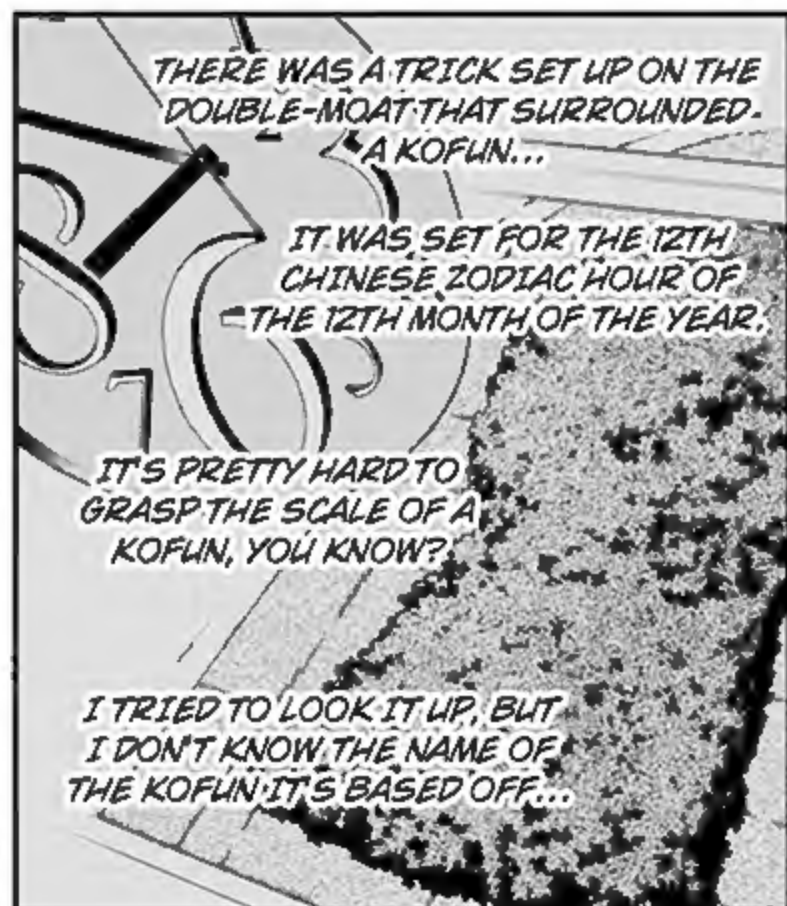














WHEN YOU ACTUALLY GO SEE ONE, IT'S SO HUGE, LOTS OF PEOPLE THINK IT JUST LOOKS LIKE A NORMAL FOREST!

WHEN YOU SEE IT WITH YOUR OWN EYES, YOU MIGHT BE DISAPPOINTED WITH HOW DULL IT IS, BUT I HOPE YOU CAN UNDERSTAND WHAT'S GREAT ABOUT SEEING THEM!

OH, AND I THINK EVERYONE IMAGINES THEM TO LOOK AS FLASHY AS THEY DO IN TEXT-BOOKS...

BUT I LIKE THAT! LIKE, I THINK THAT'S WHAT REALLY GIVES IT THE IMPRESSION OF A BIG, GRAND SITE WHERE THEY MOURNED THE DECEASED.

OKAY...

IT'S REALLY LIKE... THE KOFUN, YOU KNOW!

IT'S THE BIGGEST KOFUN IN EASTERN JAPAN!

AND YOU CAN SEE ARTIFACTS FROM IT IN THE CITY MUSEUM THERE!

OOTA... HUH?



I...

AGH! I'VE GOT TO STOP! IT'S BECAUSE I'VE GOT NO ONE TO TALK ABOUT THIS STUFF WITH...

SOMEONE JUST BRINGS IT UP ONCE AND I GO ON AND ON!

AGHHHH!  
EVERY SINGLE TIME... WHY DO I NEVER LEARN?!

AGH!

S-SORRY...

I DON'T GET WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT AT ALL.

I DON'T GET IT AT ALL...

SO...



I WANT  
TO KNOW  
ABOUT  
THAT  
DOUBLE-  
MOAT  
TOO...

IT'S THE  
KIND OF  
THING  
YOU HAVE  
TO SEE  
WITH  
YOUR  
OWN  
EYES,  
RIGHT?



WILL  
YOU...

TAKE  
ME  
WITH  
YOU  
NEXT  
TIME?



OKAY,  
LET'S  
GO!

LET'S  
GO  
TOMOR-  
ROW!

TOMOR-  
ROW?!



WE HAVE  
SCHOOL  
THEN,  
TOO!

WE  
CAN'T!  
WE'VE  
GOT  
SCHOOL

HUH?!  
THEN  
THE DAY  
AFTER  
THAT!

THEN  
AFTER  
THAT!  
LET'S GO  
AFTER  
SCHOOL!

HOLD  
ON!  
I'LL  
LOOK  
UP  
TRAIN  
TIMES  
RIGHT  
NOW!



NEXT TIME: "BLOODSHED AT THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL"

KOFUN DON'T RUN AWAY,  
BUT SOMETIMES LOVE DOES,  
LILINA-SAN!

IT'S BEEN  
THERE FOR  
CENTURIES!  
THE KOFUN  
ISN'T  
GOING  
TO RUN  
AWAY!  
JUST CALM  
DOWN!

EEEK!  
S-  
SORRY  
!!